

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, June 3, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Mary Kramp, Chair; Diana Hauman; Taunia Leffler; Carl Olson; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie; Jim Fruin; Michael Pettorini

Members Absent:

John Burrill, BNWRD; Bart Bittner, CO

Others Present:

McLean County Regional Planning Commission staff – Melissa Robinson, Office Manager; Lauren Gibson, Community Planner; Raymond Lai, Executive Director; Alyssa Cooper, Community Planner; Timothy Riley, Assistant Planner; Jennifer Sicks, Senior Transportation Planner; Casey Peterson, Stevenson Fellow; Katie Simpson, City of Bloomington; Taylor Long, Town of Normal

1. Call To Order:

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes of the March 4th, 2020 Commission meeting
- B. Financial Reports
- C. MCRPC Staff Report

Ms. Kramp pointed out a correction to the March draft meeting minutes that "Carol Olson" should be "Carl Olson".

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Teichman moved for approval. Ms. Leffler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

None was removed from the Consent Agenda

6. Items of Information or Discussion:

- a. MCRPC Member Orientation (Refresher)

Mr. Lai gave a brief overview of the orientation materials that were sent to the commission members. The orientation was presented for the new member, Mr. Pettorini, and as a refresher for current members. The materials referenced the explanation on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), MCRPC history, the resolution and bylaws of the commission, and a guide for new commission members.

Mr. Lai also explained how the regional commission works as an MPO, and when the commission was merged with McLean County as an operating agency of the county over a year ago.

b. Approved State FY 2021 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Ms. Sicks discussed the Unified Work Program (UWP) and how MCRPC's budget was structured. She explained that MCRPC works with two annual budgets but are distributed through different fiscal years. The UWP presented is funded by federal transportation dollars through Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Ms. Sicks explained that state fiscal year 2021 will be going into effect on July 1, 2020. The UWP was recommended for approval by the Technical Committee on May 15, 2020 and approved by the Policy Committee on May 22, 2020.

Ms. Sicks explained that MCRPC also works within the Overall Work Program (OWP) which follows the county's calendar year. The OWP will take effect on January 2021. Unlike the UWP, the OWP will need to be approved by the Regional Planning Commission.

Throughout the presentation, Ms. Sicks explained the various work elements of the UWP that MCRPC staff work under.

Ms. Kramp asked Ms. Sicks to provide an explanation on what indirect costs are, especially for benefit of new members. Ms. Sicks clarified that indirect costs is any costs within the budget that are not directly related to a given project. Ms. Sicks explained that they are working on no longer trying to get the state to approve an indirect cost plan. Instead they are proposing to distribute what could've been an indirect cost across the projects.

Ms. Sicks added that MCRPC also gets funding through Regional Service Agreements (RSA). These are contributions from larger local governments, including Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County. The RSA money is applied to various projects such as the comprehensive plans for Bloomington and Normal.

c. Regional Housing Initiatives – CDBG Housing Assistance

Ms. Gibson provided an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the regional housing initiative. As a result of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has relaxed some regulations and CDBG was able to get extra funds. Ms. Gibson explained that they sent surveys to 75 different service providers within McLean County asking what increased needs they have seen throughout the past month. They received 25 surveys back. The top 3 assistance needs were food, rent and utilities, and healthcare. Ms. Gibson stated that they reached out again a month later, as things change daily. The difference

that they saw the second time around was that there was an increase in the assistance for childcare.

Ms. Gibson referenced materials she shared with the commission members regarding the proposed funding prior to this meeting. The final proposed plan is planned to be considered by Bloomington City Council on June 8, 2020 and Normal Town Council on June 15, 2020.

Ms. Gibson provided information on working with United Way. They joined with United Way and other providers in the community such as Salvation Army, churches, and Mid Central Community Action Agency to provide a range of assistance. She explained that they are encouraging anyone who is applying for assistance to go through PATH as they have a entry system already set up. During this time, Ms. Gibson worked on an analysis for what the funding need would be. She projected that over the next 3 months would be about \$1.6 - \$2.6 million.

With this information, Ms. Gibson spoke at United Way's town hall, which happens every Saturday morning. She also shared these updates on a virtual call with the National Housing Coalition.

Mr. Pettorini expressed that he noticed that there are multiple agencies that require different documentation. He asked Ms. Gibson if these agencies are relaxing their documentation requirements or if they are informing those applying on where to go next. Ms. Gibson responded that there will be a uniform application.

d. Census – Complete Count Committee (CCC) Update

Ms. Cooper stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Census outreach has been evolving and adapting to new regulations. The census response period has been extended to October 31, 2020, while it was previously supposed to end on July 31, 2020. Regarding response rates, McLean County is 31st out of 102 in the state of Illinois. At this time, she is unaware if the dorm counts from Illinois State University and Wesleyan University will be reflected in McLean County's response rate yet.

Ms. Kramp asked Ms. Cooper if she knew when the Census Bureau would be going door to door to those who have not responded yet. Ms. Cooper explained that they would originally be starting this mid-May, however because of COVID-19, this would not begin until mid-August.

Ms. Cooper discussed various outreach strategies which included: fliers in grocery stores and food pantries, signs at the Bloomington airport, and working with District 87 and Unit 5 superintendents to hand out fliers during food distributions. There will also be yard signs posted throughout the county. Ms. Cooper announced that census billboards and signs throughout Connect Transit will be taken down soon as the contract with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in Peoria has ended. She added that both of these efforts as well as the radio ads and video streaming have been extremely successful.

In the next few months, she hopes to focus more on the areas in McLean County that are underperforming census tracts on the response rate, continue with the yard sign campaigns, and work with the local grocery stores.

e. Vision Zero transportation safety project

Mr. Lai provided an update to the Vision Zero project. He thanked those who submitted nominations for the project committee. Staff and consultant were working on finalizing the roster for the project action team members, and hoped to schedule a project kick off meeting very soon. He shared that they will be working hard on completing this project on time.

Mr. Lai explained that the contract with IDOT for the Vision Zero project is supposed to end in December. But due to COVID-19, staff is working with IDOT for a 6-month extension on the contract. Mr. Lai stated that there will be another update in the next meeting.

f. That which may arise

None.

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hauman moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leffler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Robinson
Office Manager/Executive Assistant