

**MINUTES**  
**McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC)**  
**REGULAR MEETING (Virtual and Live-Streamed)**

WEDNESDAY, July 1, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

**Members Present:**

Mary Kramp, Chair; Diana Hauman; Carl Olson; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie; Bart Bittner

**Members Absent:**

John Burrill; Jim Fruin; Taunia Leffler; Michael Pettorini

**Others Present:**

MCRPC 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; James McClanahan, Summer Intern; Casey Peterson, Stevenson Fellow

**1. Call To Order:**

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

**2. Attendance:**

See above

**3. Public Comment:**

None

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- A. Minutes of the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Commission meeting
- B. Financial Reports
- C. MCRPC Staff Report

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

**5. Regular Agenda:**

a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)

None

b. Approval of Special Planning Services Agreement with Connect Transit

Mr. Lai provided background information on the proposed Special Planning Services Agreement with Connect Transit. He shared that the Regional Planning Commission worked with Connect Transit two years ago and they are interested in working with the MCRPC staff again. Connect Transit Board approved this proposed agreement last week. With approval of this agreement by

MCRPC, staff at MCRPC will be providing planning services and technical assistance to Connect Transit for the next three years.

Mr. Olson asked what our experience working with Connect Transit has been and what data we have been able to provide them with in the past. Ms. Sicks explained that we have had good communication and cooperation with Connect Transit. MCRPC's first contract with Connect Transit was in 2018 when we prepared a short-range transit plan. This went well and all were pleased by the work provided. The terms of this past project were similar to what we would be working under with the new agreement.

Mr. Olson asked who crafted the scope of work for the current project. Mr. Lai responded that the staff at Connect Transit created the first draft that was sent to the MCRPC staff to review, edit, and send back. Mr. Lai added that MCRPC staff will be working with Connect Transit staff as a team in a comprehensive way. He stated that input from the commission is encouraged and welcomed throughout the next three years.

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the agreement with Connect Transit and MCRPC. Mr. Wylie moved for approval. Ms. Hauman seconded the approval, which passed unanimously.

## **6. Items of Information or Discussion:**

### **a. Vision Zero transportation safety project update**

Mr. Lai provided an update to the Vision Zero project. At the June 24, 2020 project kick-off meeting, consultants gave a presentation and discussed the project. There will be three different subgroups for this project. They are the project steering committee, an expert panel, and the community user-tester group. Mr. Lai explained that the community user-tester group will test outcomes and provide feedback throughout the project.

Mr. Lai added that the next step in the Vision Zero project will be for the consultants to hold virtual meetings with the different groups, planned for mid to later July. Currently, staff is working with IDOT for a six-month extension to this project.

### **b. Regional Housing Initiatives – CDBG Housing Assistance Update**

Ms. Gibson provided an update on the regional housing initiatives and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). She explained that there has been a 90% increase in calls for housing assistance. However, with this large increase there has been a 33% decrease in housing assistance provided. They believe that this decrease could be due to people having trouble getting the paperwork together. They also considered that the statewide moratorium on evictions has been extended for another month, which will now end in the end of July instead of June. Ms. Gibson stated that they will be working on re-energizing the marketing efforts as this moratorium begins to effect community members.

Ms. Gibson announced that the consolidated plan, which includes the CDBG-CV (Coronavirus allocation), was approved by the City of Bloomington and is set to be approved by the Town of Normal City Council on July 6, 2020. In regards to this project, Ms. Gibson stated that they have

submitted this project as a nomination for the American Planning Association Illinois Chapter public outreach award.

Ms. Gibson also provided information on working with the MCRPC's ISU Stevenson Fellow and summer intern. Stevenson Fellow, Casey Peterson, has been finding resources for various housing programs such as construction, rental mortgage rehabilitation, and special populations. The summer intern, James McClanahan, would be assisting her in researching housing trust funds and various housing projects.

c. Census – Complete Count Committee (CCC) update

Ms. Cooper provided an update on the CCC efforts for 2020 Census in McLean County. Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, the Census Bureau has asked all colleges and universities to submit their count of off-campus living students as well as their on-campus dorm counts. This will help the census count for McLean County as students were leaving early this spring and is an unknown if they would be returning in the fall.

Throughout the month, staff have been working on many census orders and distributing those throughout the county. They have been working with various pantries, rural post offices, and grocery stores. They have continued putting yard signs up and banners in downtown Bloomington and uptown Normal. Ms. Cooper added that she will be working with elected officials from Bloomington/Normal councils and the county board.

Ms. Cooper announced that we are now entering phase two of the IDHS (Illinois Department of Human Services) grant. This grant is supposed to run until the end of October 2020.

d. That which may arise

Mr. Lai noted that ISU Stevenson Fellow, Casey Peterson, will be ending his fellowship at MCRPC on July 15, 2020 due to the end of the fellowship agreement. During his time working here, he has worked on housing projects and rural development resource guide. Mr. Lai thanked Mr. Peterson and hoped to share the resource guide soon.

Mr. Lai introduced the new summer intern, James (JD) McClanahan. His internship will end early to mid-August as Mr. McClanahan will be returning to graduate school.

**7. Adjournment:**

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Robinson  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant