

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

WEDNESDAY, September 2, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

**Members Present:**

Mary Kramp, Chair; Carl Olson; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie; Bart Bittner; John Burrill; Tauna Leffler; Michael Pettorini; Jim Fruin

**Members Absent:**

Diana Hauman

**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; Melissa Quimby, Stevenson Fellow; Katie Simpson, City of Bloomington; Gretchen Monti, League of Women Voters

**1. Call To Order:**

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

**2. Attendance:**

See above

**3. Public Comment:**

None

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- A. Minutes of the August 5<sup>th</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. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**5. Regular Agenda:**

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

None

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

a. Regional Housing Initiatives – CDBG Housing Assistance Update

Ms. Gibson provided an update on the regional housing initiatives. The housing coalition has given over \$700,000 in assistance throughout the community for those who need help with rent, mortgage, and utilities due to a loss of income from COVID – 19.

On September 22, 2020, Mr. Lai and Ms. Gibson will be co-hosting the Illinois Housing Blueprint Listening Tour. This event is sponsored by the Illinois Housing Development Authority and will discuss various statewide and local housing issues and what people are hoping for in the future.

Ms. Gibson has been working the City of Bloomington with their healthy housing initiative. This technical assistance works on procedures and policies to make healthy housing for community members. They have applied for a grant through the Department of Housing and Urban Development which will allow them to focus and target the 61701 area code where there are a number of children with high elevated lead blood levels.

Ms. Gibson provided information on a new project that will be starting with the Bloomington Housing Authority. This project will analyze the Section Eight housing choice vouchers distribution.

To conclude, Ms. Gibson stated that the Bloomington/Normal consolidated plans won the APA Illinois public outreach award for 2020. The award ceremony for this award will be held during the APA conference on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### b. Census – Complete Count Committee (CCC) Update

Ms. Cooper provided an update on the CCC efforts for the 2020 Census in McLean County. McLean County has a response rate of 72%, which is above the national and state averages.

Ms. Cooper announced that the operational timeline for the 2020 Census was previously extended to October 31, 2020 but has now been shortened and all efforts will be ending on September 30, 2020.

Due to the now shortened deadline, the staff and the CCC have been working diligently to get materials distributed throughout the county. Throughout August she attended three back to school backpack events and a virtual NAACP event. She also organized to get enumerators through the Census Bureau to attend events with the Bloomington public library and the Bloomington neighborhood block party to count community members on the spot.

Ms. Kramp thanked and congratulated Ms. Cooper on her efforts despite the challenges faced along the way.

#### c. Vision Zero transportation safety project update

Mr. Lai provided an update on the Vision Zero project. The working groups of Vision Zero, project steering committee and the subject expert panel, held their first meeting on August 12, 2020. From this meeting, they identified three focus areas/categories. Mr. Lai explained that the goal is separate the groups into three sub-groups in order to conduct more research and further discuss these focus areas. The consultant is to schedule meetings for this within the next week or two.

Mr. Lai informed the commission members that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is funding this project and have granted MCRPC a six month extension. The Vision Zero contract will now expire June 2021 but Mr. Lai stated that he hopes the project will end sooner than that, despite the limitations of public and community participation due to COVID.

d. That which may arise

Mr. Lai introduced the new ISU Stevenson Fellow, Melissa Quimby. Ms. Quimby has a background in public health but has diverse interests in community and economic development. Mr. Lai explained that he is looking forward to having her knowledge and skills be of benefit for the MCRPC staff.

**7. Adjournment:**

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leffler moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Robinson  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant