

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

WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Mary Kramp, Chair; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie; John Burrill; Jim Fruin

Members Absent:

Bart Bittner, Diana Hauman, Taunia Leffler, Carl Olson, 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; Melissa Quimby, Stevenson Fellow; Mercy Davison, Town of Normal; Gretchen Monti, League of Women Voters; Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager City of Bloomington; Vasudha Gadhiraaju, Director of Innovation and Technology Town of Normal; Andrew Afflerbach, CEO Columbia Telecommunications Corporation

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 September 2nd, 2020 Commission meeting
- B. Financial Reports
- C. MCRPC Staff Report

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Wylie 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 FY 2021 Overall Work Program (OWP)

Mr. Lai presented the commission members with MCRPC's FY 2021 Overall Work Program (OWP). In conjunction, an overall table indicating revenue sources and expenses as well as a pie chart (chart 2.1 from OWP) showing revenue sources by category were shared by Mr. Lai The

OWP is MCRPC's budget for the next fiscal year that aligns with the county's (January-December). For the fiscal year of 2021, MCRPC's total budget proposed is a little over \$1.0 million. The Executive Committee of MCRPC has recommended for approval.

Mr. Lai explained the breakdown of the funding sources (local, state, and federal) and the various work elements that the MCRPC staff work on. He explained that earlier this year MCRPC staff put together their Unified Work Program (UWP), which is the annual budget agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The UWP for FY21 was presented to MCRPC for information in June 2020, after it was approved by the Transportation Policy Committee earlier. Since MCRPC works heavily on transportation planning and is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the bulk of the funding is through IDOT and federal government.

There are two work elements that are not funded by IDOT and not represented in the UWP, which are the work elements related to Regional Housing Initiatives and Local Planning and Technical Assistance. The housing work element is funded through CDBG funds. These project funds are shown in MCRPC's OWP.

Mr. Lai noted that if the commission members were to approve the FY 2021 OWP then the next steps would be for the MCRPC staff to present this to the Executive Committee of the County Board and the County Board for approval.

Mr. Wylie and Mr. Teichman noted that there were 2 typos in the FY 2021 OWP. Ms. Sicks thanked them both for pointing those out and said she would fix them ASAP.

Mr. Lai explained that this OWP was a team effort and thanked the MCRPC staff for their efforts in compiling the OWP and related materials.

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the FY 2021 Overall Work Program (OWP). Mr. Teichman moved for approval of the FY 2021 Overall Work Program (OWP). Mr. Fruin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Authorization to execute a contract by MCRPC Chairperson for consulting services regarding wireless infrastructure

Mr. Lai provided information and an overview on a unique significant regional collaboration project with the Town of Normal (TON) and the City of Bloomington (COB). Each year MCRPC staff tries to identify projects that will have regional significance and/or impact on the community. The total amount of this project is \$90,000 which is being funded by Regional Service Agreement (RSA) money for FY2020, part of which was set aside for a regional significant project. Staff believed this 5G wireless infrastructure project was significant to our region.

Mr. Lai stated that a request for proposals (RFP) was issued earlier jointly by TON and COB for professional services in evaluating current regulations and requirements regarding 5G wireless infrastructure and small cell equipments, as well as proposing guidelines for aesthetics and installations. For responses were received. After an interview process, Columbia

Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) was recommended. Staff from MCRPC, TON, and COB will be working with the consultant group CTC.

Ms. Kramp asked who developed the project contract. Mr. Lai replied that the contract was initially drafted by the legal counsel of Town of Normal, which was subsequently reviewed by the legal counsel of Bloomington and the County.

Ms. Kramp asked Ms. Gadhiraju how she expects this project to lay the groundwork for innovation planning in our area. Ms. Gadhiraju explained that the FCC passed a regulation in 2019 that limited communities from regulating wireless infrastructure. As this was a large setback, municipalities are now collaborating with consultants and establish guidelines for the wireless partners. Ms. Gadhiraju mentioned that both TON and COB are finding ways to not regulating them but rather being clear in their expectations. She clarified that wireless communications and 5G is going to be playing a very important role and they are working on making these roll outs easy, swiftly, and in a way that is compatible with what is already in place.

Mr. Tyus agreed with what Ms. Gadhiraju said. He added that as infrastructure and technology become more prevalent in our community, they should get ahead of that curve and working to guide/regulate it. He also stated that partnerships are going to be important as they move forward to grow our technological infrastructure. Mr. Tyus described that this project is going to be a regional effort to work together on guidelines.

Mr. Wylie asked if this 5G project contract fee would be a lump sum or if the total fee amount should state "not to exceed". Mr. Afflerbach from the CTC replied that yes, this project fee is a lump sum but will be paid in stages.

Ms. Kramp asked if there were any protections built in just in case a task was not completed during this project timeline. Mr. Afflerbach responded that the project is broken up into 4 stages which will not be billed until those tasks are completed.

Mr. Teichman and Mr. Wylie both expressed that this project seems like a good idea for the community and are happy to see that COB and TON are getting ahead of the curve before issues could arise.

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the authorization to execute a contract by MCRPC chairperson for consulting services regarding wireless infrastructure. Mr. Fruin moved for approval of the authorization to execute a contract by MCRPC chairperson for consulting services regarding wireless infrastructure. Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Items of Information or Discussion:

a. Regional Housing Initiatives – CDBG Housing Assistance Update

Ms. Gibson provided an update on the regional housing initiatives. Since the end of August, the Housing Coalition (HAC) has given over \$1,000,000 in assistance throughout the community for

those who need help with rent, mortgage, and utilities. The HAC will continue to monitor these needs and are building more local partnerships.

Ms. Gibson explained that the state eviction moratorium has been extended until October 17th but she is unaware of if this will be extended again. The federal eviction moratorium has also been extended until December 31st. There is now a declaration from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that a tenant needs to attest by stating that they have sought local assistance. Ms. Gibson and the HAC are working on making people aware of this and obtain local assistance. Ms. Gibson concerned that when the eviction moratorium ends, people could have a backlog of unpaid rent and utilities which could end in a large wave of evictions.

On September 22nd, the Housing Blueprint listening session organized by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and hosted by MCRPC staff took place. During this, they found that a main issue for those in the community circulated around a lack of supportive housing. This is not only a McLean County problem but rather a statewide issue.

This City of Bloomington received a \$2.3 million grant from HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to address the housing safety problems in the 61701 area. This area has the highest risk of lead paint and other home hazards due to it being an older part of town.

Ms. Gibson and the Regional Housing Staff Committee (HSC) published the 2020 update to the "Income Qualified Housing Information - McLean County". The data gathered from various government agencies is compared to McLean counties population that would fit into those income categories. They found that there was a decrease in 2020 in the number of income-qualified units in McLean County but are projecting an increase in 2021 due to various housing projects coming on board.

Ms. Kramp asked if there have been any studies conducted on the potential foreclosures of small business and/or small properties due to COVID-19. Ms. Gibson answered that although there has not been research directed on this impact, at this time small landlords are able to freeze their mortgage payments.

b. Census – Complete Count Committee (CCC) Update

Ms. Cooper provided an update on the CCC efforts for the 2020 Census in McLean County. She announced that as of October 5th, 2020 Census response rates have surpassed the 2010 response rates.

The Census timeline has been changing in the past 2 weeks but as it stands now, the 2020 Census will end on October 31st, 2020. Through the rest of October, Ms. Cooper is expecting to be continuing outreach, grant reporting, and close out reporting.

Census events that occurred during September included those at the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry, Scott early learning center, and the Bloomington public library. At these events, Ms.

Cooper helped community members get counted on the 2020 Census and handed out swag materials. The marketing consultant is still working on Census ads as their contract has been extended to October 31st.

Ms. Cooper provided the Commission with a small re-cap of what the CCC has done for the 2020 Census. In total the CCC has conducted 78 outreach events, dispersed 30,000 signs, posters, and fliers, given out 11,000 free items, distributed over 350 yard signs for placement, 57 Facebook posts, and posting in newsletters that have reached up to 76,000 subscribers.

Ms. Kramp thanked Ms. Cooper and expressed that she was very impressed by these statistics.

c. Vision Zero transportation safety project update

Ms. Sicks provided an update on the Vision Zero project. She explained that when this project first began, they started with 2 groups, the Project Steering Committee and the panel of subject matter experts. Currently, these two groups have been re-organized into 3 focus groups. These 3 focus groups are infrastructure, data/tech/research, and culture change.

An initial meeting for the leaders of the 3 focus groups took place towards the end of September. In this meeting, the Hile group gave members/groups tasks to focus on. Within the next 3 weeks, groups are to get together and discuss information. Ms. Sicks and those working on the Vision Zero project are hoping that by the end of October or mid-November that the Hile group is able to gather the information from the 3 focus groups and put it all into an overall approach and action plan.

The overall action plan will be the 1st stage of the Vision Zero project report as it is giving the direction and allowing for the information/ideas thus far to mesh.

Ms. Kramp clarified to the commission members that this project was granted a 6 month extension.

d. That which may arise

Mr. Riley informed the commission that there would be a Greenways virtual event held on October 8th at 7:00pm about the Tipton Trails and its greenways development. He said that he would send each commission member the virtual webinar and registration information.

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fruin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Robinson

Office Manager/Executive Assistant