

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

WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

**Members Present:**

Mary Kramp, Chairperson; Bart Bittner; John Burrill; Jim Fruin; Diana Hauman; Taunia Leffler; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie; Michael Pettorini

**Members Absent:**

Carl Olson

**Others Present:**

MCRPC Staff – Melissa Robinson; Alyssa Cooper; Lauren Gibson; Timothy Riley; Jennifer Sicks, Raymond Lai; Will Harris; Melissa Quimby  
Others – Gretchen Monti

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**1. Call To Order:**

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

**2. Attendance:**

See above

**3. Election of Officers 2021** (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Member of Executive Committee)

Mr. Lai provided an overview for 2021 of the election procedure, based on an information sheet provided in the agenda packet distributed to the commission members prior to the meeting.

Ms. Kramp appointed Mr. Fruin, current vice-chairperson, as chairperson pro-tempore to handle this election process. Mr. Lai noted that Mr. Fruin indicated he would not seek a leadership position on the commission.

Mr. Fruin called for nominations for the chairperson. Mr. Burrill nominated Ms. Kramp for chairperson. Receiving no other nominations, Mr. Fruin declared the nomination closed for the chairperson. He then called for a vote for the chairperson, and Ms. Kramp was unanimously elected.

After Ms. Kramp was re-elected as the chairperson, Mr. Fruin turned the rest of the election process over for Ms. Kramp to continue.

Ms. Kramp called for nominations for the vice-chairperson. Mr. Teichman nominated Ms. Hauman for vice-chairperson. Receiving no other nominations, Ms. Kramp declared the

nomination closed for the vice-chairperson. She then called for a vote for the vice-chairperson, and Ms. Hauman was unanimously elected.

Ms. Kramp called for nominations for the member of the executive committee. Mr. Teichman nominated Mr. Bittner for the member of the executive committee. Receiving no other nominations, Ms. Kramp declared the nominations closed for the member of the executive committee, and Mr. Bittner was unanimously elected.

Ms. Kramp thanked Mr. Fruin for his duty as vice-chairperson and welcomed Ms. Hauman as the vice-chairperson and Mr. Bittner to the executive committee.

#### **4. Public Comment:**

None

#### **5. Consent Agenda:**

- A.** Minutes of the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Commission meeting
- B.** Financial Reports
- C.** MCRPC Staff Report

Mr. Lai gave a quick update to the commission about the Smart City project. In the December 2020 commission meeting, he mentioned that there will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) presented to the commission for approval. However, since that meeting, Mr. Lai learned that the MOU is to be considered for execution by McLean County so there will be no need for a separate MOU for execution by the MCRPC. A draft MOU will be considered at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the County Board.

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which passed unanimously.

#### **6. Regular Agenda:**

Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)

None

#### **7. 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 distributed \$2.3 million in rental, mortgage, and utility assistance between May 2020-December 2020. Ms. Gibson explained other housing information which included that Illinois will be starting a rental assistance program in the spring. Information and details about this program are still pending. In the December Commission meeting, Ms. Gibson discussed the extension on the state eviction moratorium, to December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. However, the state eviction moratorium has been extended monthly to February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. She also mentioned that the CDC eviction moratorium has been extended to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Ms. Gibson explained that the Housing Coalition ran a rental needs analysis which looked at the number of households in McLean County that needed rental assistance, primarily those on a monthly basis. She discussed their findings and would send them a copy of the analysis data if interested. She stated that on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, they published a white paper titled "Preservation of LIHTC and Other Income-Qualified Housing in McLean County".

Ms. Kramp asked if Ms. Gibson had any information on foreclosures by apartment owners in the area. Ms. Gibson replied that these are hard to track and does not have solid data on those in the local area.

Mr. Bittner asked if Ms. Gibson was aware of when the eviction moratorium will be pulled and what the step-down process would look like. Ms. Gibson responded that it is hard to predict but understands that Illinois has a good eviction moratorium protection in place. As eviction cases do start to come in, she said that they are able to work with those and pair them to the needed assistance.

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

Ms. Sicks provided an update on the Vision Zero project. This project is moving along quickly. At this time the project team is drafting the project plan document, "Action Plan", which will be reviewed by the project steering committee, the subject matter experts, and MCRPC staff. The consultant (Hile Group) and MCRPC staff are preparing three public outreach meetings to get input and feedback. The Hile Group and the sub-consultant Firebrand Cooperative have developed graphics to use in the action plan documents and any additional materials such as flyers, posters, and stickers. Information on the Vision Zero project will be launched on the MCRPC website, which will direct the public in understanding this project and gain more participation.

Ms. Sicks stated that they are meeting regularly, including the graphic designer. These meetings are going well as they are able to catch any issues quickly and ensuring that there are no further project delays. Mr. Lai stated that based on the agreement, the Hile Group will finish with their work by the end of April 2021. They will finalize the report and will present to the commission during its April meeting.

Mr. Pettroini asked if the Hile Group participated in the IDOT Veterans Parkway/Route 9 intersection improvement feasibility study presentation. Mr. Lai answered that these are two separate projects although they both are related to transportation safety. Vision Zero project is for transportation safety planning for the county region, while the Veterans Parkway/Route 9 study meeting is for an improvement project which has been in the works for many years. Ms. Sicks commented that the IDOT Veterans Parkway project is important to the MCRPC in respects to the goal of the Vision Zero project. She is hoping that the action plan with the Vision Zero project will be able to carry over recommendations and considerations into other transportation projects such as IDOT's Veteran Parkway project.

Ms. Kramp commented that the public outreach for the Vision Zero project will be vital in gaining public participation towards the Veterans Parkway project. Ms. Sicks responded that that is a major project which will involve IDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the local public.

c. Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) project update

Ms. Sicks explained that this project is being conducted by the Town of Normal (TON) and is federally funded. They are in the process of hiring a consulting company to gather photos of the road conditions and survey of streets. These photos will be analyzed and rated on a 10-point scale. Ms. Sicks stated that this project is important as the City of Bloomington (COB) and McLean County have already been using this rating system, whereas TON has not. Having all three municipalities using the same rating system will allow them to analyze road/pavement conditions together and be consistent with one another.

This is scheduled to get underway next month, March 2021. Ms. Sicks also explained that the analysis of this project will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) later this spring.

d. 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule

Mr. Lai discussed the 2021 Commission meeting schedule, which was provided to the commission members prior to this meeting. The dates are consistently every first Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm. Mr. Lai stated that the MCRPC staff will be reviewing the bylaws but asked the commission members as to whether they wanted to keep this same meeting day and time.

Ms. Kramp expressed that she would like to keep the meeting schedule as is. Mr. Bittner agreed. Mr. Teichman also advocated that this remain the same, as changing the schedule may conflict with other meetings or staff work time. Mr. Lai responded that keeping the meeting times to 4:00pm would work well with staff and would pose no additional conflicts. With no objections, the day and time of the regular meeting will remain the same.

Ms. Kramp asked if there were any additional items in the bylaws for consideration that should be discussed. Mr. Lai answered that there was nothing else at this time but would like for the commission members to email him if they see anything in the bylaws that should be changed.

Ms. Kramp raised the question of whether the commission should move the election process to January instead of December. Mr. Lai said that he would look into how other planning commissions of local municipalities handle this process.

[Mr. Wylie left the meeting at 4:44pm]

e. That which may arise

Mr. Lai announced that a staff member, Tim Riley, would be leaving his position as an assistant planner with MCRPC on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He thanked him for all that he has done.

Mr. Riley explained that he is moving to Maryland and is grateful for the opportunities that he was able to be a part of. Ms. Kramp wished Mr. Riley all the best in his next endeavors.

Mr. Lai welcomed the new intern, Will Harris, a senior from the Illinois Wesleyan University. Mr. Harris will be working with Ms. Gibson on housing-related projects. Mr. Harris said that he is excited for this opportunity and experience. Ms. Kramp welcomed Mr. Harris.

**8. Adjournment:**

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hauman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Robinson  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant