

**APPROVED MINUTES [PER 6/3/2020 MEETING]  
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, March 4, 2020, 4:00 P.M.  
GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 402  
115 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

**Members Present:**

Mary Kramp, Chair; Diana Hauman, Executive Committee Representative; Bart Bittner; John Burrill; Tania Leffler; Carl Olson; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie

**Members Absent:**

Jim Fruin, Vice-Chair

**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; Dion McNeal, McLean County Communications Specialist; Michael Pettorini.

**Call To Order:**

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Lai pointed out a correction to the draft February meeting minutes. He stated that there was an error in the third paragraph regarding the Vision Zero Project. "Firebrand Collective" should be "Firebrand Cooperative". Mr. Lai stated that staff have corrected this mistake but it should be noted.

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

**Regular Agenda:**

None

**Items of Information or Discussion:**

Vision Zero project update

Mr. Lai provided information on the Vision Zero project and referenced the memorandum on project milestones distributed to the commission with the agenda packet. He explained that the consultancy contract was signed in June last year and project kick-off should've been started

sooner but was stalled due to a search for a new Executive Director for the Regional Planning Commission.

Ms. Kramp noted that she researched on Vision Zero. She provided background on the consultant and project and how the concept has been worked on in some major U.S. cities and what they have done so far.

Ms. Kramp stated that this is a safety program that affects automobiles, bikes, and pedestrians. She explained that we can build our own plan based on input from the people that are recommended for the committee. The planning process for this project was stalled to allow better understanding of the project by the Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Lai requested committee members for names of nominees to project committee to be submitted by next week. He would like for the committee to be made up of individuals properly reflecting a balanced representation of our community. He explained that the Hile Group would like for the committee to be made up of no more than 15 people.

Mr. Bittner raised the question of whether there needs to be a baseline that is hit or if they develop a plan from scratch. Mr. Lai described that it is all up to those on the committee with what they want to adopt. Mr. Lai stated that he would like to incorporate the recommendations from Vision Zero into the MCRPC's 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan related to transportation safety.

Ms. Kramp then gave an example of the dangers with bicyclists and trucks on major roads. She explained that there have been a couple of fatalities on Veterans Parkway and that this is a major highway which has many things to consider regarding safety.

#### Complete Count Committee (CCC) Update

Ms. Cooper provided an update on the CCC efforts for 2020 Census throughout McLean County. She presented a timeline of when census mailings would be made to the community and public. Ms. Cooper explained that the first mailings would be made on March 12<sup>th</sup> with follow-ups every week for four weeks, amounting to a total of five mailings. Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> through August, representatives from the census bureau would be coming door to door to households that have not yet responded to the mailings to remind those to please complete the census count. Ms. Cooper then shared that on March 20<sup>th</sup>, an online census response map would be going live in order to track the self-response rate within our area.

Ms. Kramp asked Ms. Cooper if she knew of the website's name, to which Ms. Cooper said that she would email the website link to the committee.

Ms. Cooper provided a timeline of events that would be happening in McLean county. She shared that there would be around 70 census related events through April. Ms. Cooper provided the committee with information on how many people have been reached so far. These included: 1,400 people through events, 3,300 people through flyers/newspapers/magazines, and 77,000

people through social media. As of March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, those numbers are just halfway through the census efforts and are projected to be much higher.

Ms. Cooper announced that she has been working with a media consultant hired by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in Peoria. They have been able to secure four billboards in McLean County and census signs on all Connect Transit busses and bus shelters. There are plans for radio and tv ads as well but have not been active yet.

Ms. Kramp asked how many people are expected to fill out the census forms. Ms. Cooper stated that ten years ago the outcome for McLean County was about 70%. With the census survey now being online, she was projecting the outcome to be 80%.

#### That which may arise

Mr. Lai explained that the Regional Planning Commission would be adding a new member, Michael Pettorini. Mr. Lai stated that he will be placed on the County Board's agenda for confirmation. Once approved, Mr. Pettorini will be provided an orientation before next month's commission meeting.

Mr. Lai also gave an update on the regional housing initiative. MCRPC has received funding commitments from Bloomington/Normal for a combined total of \$50,000. Mr. Lai added that there will be a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearing today at 5:30pm and another public hearing will be held later in the month. He stated that Ms. Lauren Gibson has been the lead on this and has worked hard and diligently.

Ms. Kramp asked Mr. Lai to give background on what the CDBG is so that everyone has a better understanding. Mr. Lai explained the goals of the CDBG and now we are wrapping up the 5-year Consolidated Plan. He then asked Ms. Gibson to add any other comments.

Ms. Kramp asked Ms. Gibson what amount Bloomington/Normal receives through CDBG and how the money will be spent. Ms. Gibson answered that Bloomington typically receives around \$550,000 and Normal receives around \$490,000 per year, and that the numbers for next year will be slightly higher. She explained that the money goes to programs which were identified and prioritized based on the outcome of last year's public participation efforts. Ms. Gibson gave examples of what activities are permissible to fund through CDBG and explained some of the restrictions on how much can be allocated to certain programs.

#### **Adjournment:**

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Robinson  
Office Manager