

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Rich Howell, Chad Miller, Mel Blanchette, Loretto Cowhig, George Washington, Jeff Jarvis, Ralph Paarlberg, Bud Bates, Bill Bukowski, Craig Bayston and Mayor Payton

Others:

Mike Lammey, Del Skimerhorn and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved approval of the December 18, 2008 Minutes. Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

AIRPORT STUDY

Ms. Cowhig stated that the final report of the Airport Study had been adopted by the Airport Study Task Force at their December 18, 2008 meeting. She stated that the study purpose had been “to develop a land use framework that encourages and supports economic development opportunities and ensures compatibility with airport operations.”

Mr. Lammey stated that the process for adoption is for action by the full Regional Planning Commission at their January 27, 2009 meeting, action by the PZA Committee at their January 28, 2009 meeting, and action by the County Board at their February 10, 2009 meeting.

Chairman Howell asked about the adoption process by the City of Kankakee, and Ms. Cowhig stated that the Comprehensive Plan is being currently redone, and that the Airport Study had been forwarded for inclusion in that document. Chairman Howell asked what percentage of the study area was currently within the corporate boundaries of the City of Kankakee, and Mr. Skimerhorn replied that between a third and half of the study area was within the City of Kankakee.

Mr. Jarvis stated that the most serious issue for local landowners in the area would be for those

living just south of the existing runway, and stated that access will be preserved for those residents.

Mr. Washington moved that the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee recommend approval of the Airport Study to the full Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the contract for the study was approved by the County Board at their January meeting. He stated that a Citizen's Advisory Committee was formed at the January 15, 2009 kickoff meeting for the study, with a concern about representation from the municipalities in the County. He stated that the next meeting of the CAC (Citizen's Advisory Committee) will be held on February 26, 2009 at noon at the Community Foundation.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that there is a short deadline for this project, with a draft study deadline of June 30. He stated that material will be presented to the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee at their next meeting. Chairman Howell stated that the Subcommittee had a member on the CAC (Mr. Bergdahl), and that approval for the study would come back through the Subcommittee.

2009 WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the Comprehensive Plan for Hopkins Park/Pembroke Township will be done by some other means than the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee, and requested a modification to the 2009 Work Program. Chairman Howell suggested that the language be changed to "Monitor the progress of the Pembroke/Hopkins Park Comprehensive Plan." Ms. Cowhig moved approval of the amended 2009 Work Program, and Mr. Washington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the suggestions made by the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee at their last meeting on the Goals of the Long-Range Transportation Plan will be presented to the Policy Committee of the Kankakee Area Transportation Study at their January 28, 2009 meeting for adoption. He stated that drafts of the report would be brought to future meetings of the Subcommittee.

ZONING REDUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the State's Attorneys Office had given an opinion that this project can move forward. He stated that the notification process would be newspaper publication and with public hearings. Chairman Howell stated that this is a large project, and that if members had specific issues they should contact Mr. Skimerhorn. Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the current plan had some historical issues that hinder staff in the development process. Chairman Howell stated that members of the Subcommittee should be given maps that show the scale of the problem.

LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE PLAN ADOPTIONS

Mr. Skimerhorn reported that the Village of Buckingham has adopted the Kankakee County Comprehensive Plan. He stated that staff will be making a presentation to the Bourbonnais

Planning Commission at their January 22, 2009 meeting.

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTING

Mr. Lammey stated that scanning of crash reports for 2004 is complete, and that the project has been turned over to the GIS and Highway Departments in January. He stated that the issue will be presented to the GIS Committee at their February meeting.

WIND FARM ISSUE

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that an application has been filed, and that he has reviewed it. He stated that hearings are being planned for the week of February 17, to be held at the American Legion building in Herscher. Mr. Miller stated that the Kankakee River Valley Chamber of Commerce annual dinner is to be held on February 19th. Chairman Howell stated his belief that there will be opposition to the project, and that the hearing process will be interesting.

Mr. Miller stated that his organization is organizing a tour of the Ellsworth wind farm in McLean County on February 3, and he may have seats left over. He encouraged Subcommittee members to contact him on February 2 to see if seats are available.

Mr. Jarvis asked about tornado issues with the wind farms. Mr. Skimerhorn stated that there is a braking system on the wind farm blades that prohibits them from spinning faster than a set speed. He stated that a safety system is in place to have the blade, if it disengages, to fall at the foot of the tower, and would travel no further.

Chairman Howell asked about the timing of construction, and Mr. Skimerhorn stated that no timetable had been given as yet.

LESA

Chairman Howell stated that two Subcommittee members had volunteered to serve on this committee (Mr. Miller and Mr. Bergdahl). He stated that the timeline for the committee would be for the end of June.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lammey stated that rural transit service would begin to the City of Momence on Monday, February 2, with buses leaving downtown Kankakee and Momence every hour.

Chairman Howell stated that the Soil & Water Conservation District annual meeting would be a breakfast meeting on February 5, and that members should contact him if they have interest in attending.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that the next meeting would be March 19, 2009, and that the location would be the County Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Washington moved adjournment, and Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 10:35 A.M.