

Members Present

Mr. Stauffenberg, Ms. Barber, Mr. Hess, Mr. James, Ms. McBride, Ms. Schmidt, Mr. Scholl, Mr. Tholen, Mr. Tripp, Mr. Washington, and Mr. Whitten

Members Absent

Mr. Marcotte and Mr. Olthoff

In Attendance

Mr. Bossert, Mr. Liehr, Delbert Skimerhorn, Mike Van Mill, Michelle Sadler, Rich Howell, Mike Lamme, Don Pallissard, and Gina O'Neil

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Stauffenberg, at 9:00 a.m. Quorum present.

2. Public Comment

Rich Howell reminded the committee members of the Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting next Thursday, February 5th. It is a breakfast meeting at Quality Inn. Speakers will be Burt Jacobson and Rich Schultz from the Sustainability Department from KCC talking about sustainability and green jobs. If you haven't made a reservation and would like to attend you can let him know today or call the office.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve the December 23, 2008 minutes and Mr. Whitten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Transportation

• **Airport Study**

A copy of the final draft of the airport study was given to each member. Mr. Van Mill stated that this was passed by the Regional Planning Commission last night at its meeting. It was passed unanimously. This is a culmination of a cooperative effort between the airport board, the City of Kankakee and the County of Kankakee to study and evaluate issues and growth trends in the area around the airport and the 308 interchange. A task force was created back in July that included two members of the City of Kankakee, two members of the airport authority, and two members of Kankakee County. They went through the process of choosing a consultant and going through the process of doing this plan. Crawford, Murphy and Tilley, who is the airport consultant for the airport, was selected as the consultant. The study focuses on three elements that are essential for the growth and development of this area.

1. The expansion or the maintenance of the airport operations
2. The land use in and around the area
3. The transportation network

Also, the economic development and strategies we want to put in place to attract business to the area. The focus of this study was about a mile in every direction of the airport. To the north, the scope goes to River Road. To the south, it goes to Otto Road. To the east, the natural barrier of the river is used and to the west, I-57 and the railroad. That is the area that was focused on. They held monthly meetings and oversaw the progress of the consultants. At the end, they had two public hearings.

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Ms. Schmidt referred to a section of the study that refers to airport land use compatibility standards which states that the FAA provides regulations regarding the minimum of wildlife attractants near airports. These guidelines prohibit the developments such as golf courses, detention ponds, wet lands, etc. that would attract wildlife within 10,000 feet of a runway. The landfill and retention pond would probably attract wildlife. She questioned why that was not addressed in the study. She feels that is very important.

Mr. Van Mill stated that the committee was asked whether they wanted to take that into consideration. It was addressed and the committee as a whole decided that they wanted to remain within this area for development purposes. It was noted that that was a concern.

Ms. Schmidt asked if it was noted in the study.

Mr. Van Mill stated that he did not believe so.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she thinks it is being careless and the airport committee should have an issue with this.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they asked their consultant to tell them whether that was a significant enough of an issue. They did not raise it as a significant issue. When it was brought to the public, the public did make this an issue at one of their meetings. The experts were asked what should be taken into consideration. The majority of the members of the committee decided that this issue was beyond the scope of what we wanted to consider to move this plan forward.

Mr. Stauffenberg questioned whether that could be a notch in our belt in our fight against the landfill.

Mr. Tripp stated that the river itself will attract more geese than the landfill.

Mr. Whitten asked if the airport itself was going to be in the city limits.

Mr. Van Mill stated that it already is.

Mr. James stated that all the agriculture surrounding it will also attract birds.

Mr. Washington stated that landfills today do not leave the garbage exposed like they use to. They cover the garbage up so it does not attract birds like it used to.

Mr. Van Mill stated that if in the future the airport expanded, there was discussion of closing the 4000 road. If that would happen, there is a contingency for a new road to be built a half mile south. Also, a roadway that would connect 2000 east road to 750 road is being considered. A third possibility is a frontage road that would go along I-57 and connect to Otto Road. These are possibilities if the area becomes developed in an industrial way.

Mr. Stauffenberg questioned what a flood fringe was.

Mr. Van Mill stated a flood way is the most restricted area of development. The area that has a current in a flood stage. No development is done there. The flood fringe is the area where you do have extended areas of flooding but you have water that settles. In most aspects it is usable land.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they are advocates to expand the fairgrounds. They would like to see the fairgrounds be an area of attraction.

Mr. Van Mill stated that a statistic was brought to their attention by their consultants that showed that when airports are adjacent to industrial parks 84% of those businesses attracted to those areas had no relationship to the airport.

Some of the tactical marketing strategies that will be put into place is to conduct a marketing campaign to attract attention of potential investors to the area, grow and retain existing employers in the area, and gather industry intelligence on target industries.

Ms. Schmidt questioned again whether the landfill and retention pond fits the FAA guidelines.

Mr. Bossert stated that he understands the concern but we shouldn't talk ourselves out of an airport expansion. Raising the issue about locality is not going to help us. We are trying to promote the concept that the airport is an economic engine and there is development potential around that area. It's an argument for the proponents of the landfill, perhaps, to point out that if you promote this we may be losing this – which one do you want? That's the argument. But let's not tie that into our study.

Mike Van Mill stated that he thinks we can pass this and continue to pursue that question.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she knows we are desperate for economic development but we should take into consideration the safety of something or the environmental impact of something.

Mr. Whitten made a motion to accept the airport study and Mr. Tripp seconded it.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she would like to make an amendment to the motion that we add that this is approved if the landfill fits the regulations of the FAA. There was no second to that amendment. Motion failed.

The original motion carried.

5. Subdivision

• Diversatech Grove Subdivision Final Plat Extension of Recording Time

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the developers of Diversatech Grove are asking that the requirement that their final plats be recorded in 60 days be extended another three months. They are having some issues getting a telephone easement worked out.

Mr. James made a motion to extend the recording time three months and Mr. Washington seconded it. Motion carried.

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6. Planning

- **Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission 2009 Award Program**

Mr. Van Mill stated that on an annual basis they ask the County Board to concur with the annual work program for the Regional Planning Commission. It keeps the County Board updated on their activities.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scholl and seconded by Mr. Tholen. Motion carried.

Mr. Scholl expressed appreciation to all the people that put the time and energy into this. He thinks they have done a fantastic job.

- **Kankakee County Planning Department 2008 Year End Report**

Mr. Van Mill gave a slide presentation and distributed a handout that showed the activities that have occurred in the planning department this year.

7. Economic Alliance

8. Other

9. Old/New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m. was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Scholl. Motion carried.

Jim Stauffenberg, Vice-Chairman
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator