

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Rich Howell, John Meyer, Loretto Cowhig, Dave Bergdahl and Frank Koehler

Others:

George Washington, Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, and Brian Billingsley, Kankakee County; and Roger Hedrick and Larry Lund, HNTB

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergdahl moved that the Minutes of the February 17, 2004 meeting be approved. Mr. Meyer seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Chairman Howell introduced Roger Hedrick and Larry Lund from the team at HNTB. Mr. Hedrick stated that the two days of Key Contact Interviews had concluded, and that the twelve groups had represented their views well. He stated that some of the views were widely divergent, and that the challenge was to find consensus in those divergent views.

Mr. Washington asked what the divergent views were, and Mr. Hedrick stated that the perception of where future growth would occur differed by the viewpoint, and that the issue of agricultural preservation varied depending on who was talking.

Mr. Lund stated that one of the key issues was growth and its impact on the school districts, as was evidenced by the large number of School Superintendents who attended that particular session. He also stated that the issue of transportation was raised by a number of the interview participants, and that the views expressed were very local in nature.

Mr. Bergdahl asked if the larger communities had differing views from the remaining communities, and Mr. Hedrick stated that a comment expressed was that the County should treat

all communities the same. Mr. Washington stated that those efforts have begun, and that they would continue. Mr. Lund stated that a number of communities have specific needs that they feel need to be addressed, and that these will be brought forward in the study. Mr. Koehler stated that it was critical that those small communities needed to believe that they are involved in the study.

Mr. Lammey stated that the test web site was available for review on a laptop provided, and that it would likely be available to the public by the next Land Use Subcommittee meeting. He stated that cards with the web site address on them would be mailed to the members of the Land Use Subcommittee when the site is available.

Mr. Bergdahl stated that the level of concern by each of the communities should be taken into consideration during the study, and that Kankakee County should be aware of those varied levels of concern. Mr. Koehler stated that developers should be included into these discussions. Mr. Lammey stated that two of the Key Contact Interviews were held with the development community. Mr. Washington stated that the smaller communities need technical assistance in dealing with those developers.

Mr. Lund stated that there was an interest in streamlining government, and that a number of the interviews had mentioned this goal. He stated that the smaller communities also thought that the services that they needed provided were only being provided in the larger urbanized area.

Mr. Washington stated that the problem in Pembroke has not been in attracting people to live in the area, but in the services being provided to those people. He stated that the historic background of Pembroke has been closely linked to the Chicago area, not necessarily to the Kankakee area. Mr. Van Mill stated that the sparse nature of development makes the provision of those services one of the challenges.

Mr. Hedrick stated that the presentation to the Regional Planning Commission at 7:00 P.M. would be an introduction of the work elements of the study, and to the schedule of events under plan for the study.

STORMWATER ISSUES

Mr. Van Mill stated that the responses to the Request for Proposal were all in excess of the \$50,000 budgeted for the study. He stated that staff recommended the rejection of all bids to the PZA Committee, and they voted to concur in that view. He stated that another method of performing the study would be found.

2004 WORK PROGRAM

Chairman Howell stated that it was time to check on the progress of the work program for the year, and each element was discussed. Mr. Van Mill stated that the Quality of Life Initiative Grants are addressing a number of the issues in the work program.

Mr. Koehler suggested that members of the Commuter Rail Task Force who are also members or staff of the Transportation Subcommittee could meet with Will County staff and discuss the transportation issues at the borders of the two counties prior to the next Task Force meeting, to be held at the Will County Highway Department on May 18, 2004.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that the next meeting would be Tuesday, May 24, 2004, and after discussion, Ms. Cowhig moved that the meeting be scheduled at 4:30 P.M. Mr. Bergdahl seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Koehler moved adjournment, and Ms. Cowhig seconded. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:50 P.M.