

# MINUTES

## Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission Community Development Subcommittee

Wednesday April 21, 2004 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Second Floor – Kankakee County Administration Building

### Attendance:

Mike Spilsbury                      Dennis Peters  
David Bergdahl                      Craig Bayston

### In Attendance:

Mike Van Mill, Planning Director  
Mike Lammey, Transportation Planner  
Delbert Skimerhorn, Cartographer/Planning GIS Coordinator  
Eric Sadler, Planning Technician

Chairman Spilsbury called the meeting to order at 10:00 and declared a quorum.

Mr. Van Mill handed out a copy of the 2004 Work Program for the Community Development Subcommittee and reviewed its elements. The elements of the Work Program include:

- 1) To initiate the development of a Kankakee County Economic Development Strategy Plan;
- 2) The development of a community needs assessment report; and,
- 3) Oversight of the County's newsletter and website.

Mr. Van Mill stated that his staff has yet to initiate the Kankakee County Economic Development Strategy Plan. Some coordination is needed among other groups in the community. Subcommittee members agreed that the Plan is a very important part of the overall strategy of Kankakee County and should be pursued. The members emphasized that such a Plan will help in developing consistency in decision-making and how prospective employers are handled. Continued efforts should be made to initiate this project during this Work Program period.

Mr. Van Mill explained that a needs assessment report has not been prepared, however work has been completed on sub-elements of the work element. A sub-element include conducting regional workshops. Mr. Van Mill informed the subcommittee that the Planning Department conducted a Planning & Zoning Workshop for appointed and elected officials on April 8, 2004. The workshop was held at the Quality Inn, Bradley. 60 to 70 officials were in attendance. Mr.

Van Mill stated that surveys from participants at the workshop indicate a desire for additional workshops on various topics. Possible additional educational sessions include how to conduct public meetings, the Open Meetings Act, and a cracker-barrel session that involves 4 or 5 concurrent discussions on different topics. It is the hope of the Planning Department to conduct two more workshops in 2004.

Mr. Skimerhorn made a presentation showing and going over the County's website, particularly the Planning Department's. The websites reviewed in the presentation were [www.k3county.net](http://www.k3county.net) and [www.k3countyplan.org](http://www.k3countyplan.org).

Under New Business, two items were discussed: Mitigation Planning and the next round of the Illinois Tomorrow Grant Program.

Mr. Van Mill passed out a December 2003 press release from the Governor announcing that Kankakee County has been awarded a grant to complete a hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Van Mill stated that, due to U.S. Congress passing the Mitigation Act of 2000, local units of government are now required to complete a hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for certain funding sources in case of a disaster. Mr. Van Mill explained that the planning exercise would involve assessing our community vulnerabilities to natural hazard such as tornadoes, thunder and ice storms, flooding, and heat. The plan may also address vulnerabilities to man-made disasters. A consultant would be secured to assist in the plan preparation.

Mr. Van Mill explained that internally the County is trying to determine what department or agency should be involved. The Sheriff's Department has an ESDA division that should have representation. Because of the Community Development Subcommittee's charge to be involved in community-wide issues, it may be that this plan should be the responsibility of this group. Mr. Van Mill stated that he would continue discussions with the Sheriff's Department to determine the extent of their involvement. If it appears that the Community Development Subcommittee would be the lead group on this project, this item will be on a future agenda to amend the 2004 work program.

Mr. Lammey suggested that the subcommittee discuss the upcoming grant application under Illinois Tomorrow. Mr. Van Mill stated that the Illinois Tomorrow Grant initiative is sponsored by IDOT and in the past we have been successful in securing funds to conduct the 6000 Corridor Plan, the Washington Street Corridor Plan, and the update to the County's Comprehensive Plan. These three projects were awarded in rounds 1 and 2 of the grant program. The County did not submit a project to IDOT in the third round.

Mr. Lammey explained that IDOT officials are encouraging us again to submit a project in the fourth round. Apparently, IDOT was not impressed with the quality of the applications in the third round and felt we proposed thought out proposals.

The first two rounds of the grant program were administered under Governor Ryan's administration. Under Governor Blagojevich's administration, emphasis will remain on transportation corridors, however an added emphasis will be on economic development.

Mr. Van Mill stated the Planning Department has discussed a few project ideas. He outlined the possibility of applying for funds to perform a detailed plan of the area encompassed by Career Center Road on the west, 5000 Road on the east, Road 5000 (St. George Road) to the South, and Road 9000 on the north. This is the County's high growth corridor and several units of government are involved in its development, including the Villages of Manteno, Bradley, Bourbonnais, and Kankakee County. Mr. Van Mill outlined several development issues that should be coordinated, including

- Access Management
- Development Codes
  - Set backs
  - Design
  - Aesthetics
  - Stormwater
  - Greenways and trails
  - Right of Way needs
  - Signage
  - Parking
- Existing Roadway Jurisdiction
- Industrial Development
- Commuter Rail
- Interchange
- Economic Development Incentives
- Open Space
- Land Uses

The Subcommittee discussed the merits of this proposal as well as the possibility of applying for funds to assist in planning efforts in Pembroke Township. The Subcommittee agreed to invite representatives of the three municipalities to its May 19 meeting to determine their level of support to apply for funds to do this advance planning work. At its meeting in June, subcommittee members asked the Planning Department to invite representatives of the State to attend to discuss the status Team Illinois in Pembroke Township.

A motion was made by Mr. Peters, seconded by Mr. Bayston, to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote at 12:15 p.m.

Prepare by: Mike Van Mill, Director