

Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission Meeting  
Summary of Minutes  
May 26, 2009

Regional Planning Commission Members Present:

Craig Bayston	Mayor Samuel Payton
Chad Miller	Jim Tripp
Craig Blanchette	Jeff Jarvis
Ralph Paarlberg	Loretto Cowhig
David Bergdahl	Mel Blanchette
George Washington, Jr.	Chris Tholen
Elisabeth Dunbar	

Regional Planning Commission Members Absent:

Rich Howell	Rep. Lisa Dugan
Bill Bukowski	Bud Bates

Quorum Present.

Kankakee County Planning Department Staff Present:

Mike Van Mill	Jim Greenstreet
Mike Lammey	Delbert Skimerhorn
Gina O'Neil	

County Board Members Present:

Roger Hess	Jim Vickery
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Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Washington.

No public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergdahl to approve the January 27, 2009 minutes with the change to the spelling of Mr. Bayston's name on the last page. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bayston. Motion carried.

**Panel Discussion with Mayors:**

The following Mayors were in attendance for the panel discussion: Mayor Gerald Hakey, Village of Essex; Mayor David O'Connell, Village of St. Anne; Mayor Mike Watson, Village of Sammons Point; Mayor Mickey Porter, Village of Momence; Mayor Fred Meyer, Village of Grant Park; and Mayor Samuel Payton, Village of Hopkins Parks.

Each Mayor was asked the same series of questions from Mr. Van Mill and given time to respond and have discussion with the Planning Commission Members.

The questions were geared to the needs of the Villages and what the Commission and the County can do for them.

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The following are the questions that were ask of each Mayor. General discussion ensued after each question.

- One: As a new or existing Mayor of a rural community explain your desire to lead your Village also give a brief description of the current state of the Village (population, development, unique aspects, etc.).
- Two: Indentify and briefly explain up to three challenges and opportunities facing your community. Explain any perceived or real barriers that you may face in addressing these items.
- Three: At the end of this term, describe how you would like to see for your community.

All of the Mayors have an aggressive approach to the next four years and hopefully the County can help. The County needs to change their approach in helping out the Villages and moving forward.

Ms. Dunbar talked about the Historic Preservation Commission and what their function and goals are. The Commission was designated as a CLG, which qualifies us for grants. The Commission can also help communities that don't have a Historic Preservation Commission, but have properties and/or structures they would like to see with landmark status.

On behalf of the County Board Members and Planning Commission we want thank you for being here tonight. We have insight into our rural communities and the uniqueness and challenges you face. We are here to help and are a phone call away.

The following are a few common issues in the conversation tonight:

- Public Finance (revenue generation to expenses to stabilizing the tax base)
- Business Attract and Retention (what kind of businesses your are needing in your community and strategy in meeting that need and keeping the business local)
- Community Pride (How to brand your community and its uniqueness )
- Governmental Educations (workshops that help educate your boards)
- Planning and Code Enforcement (updating plans, helping with zoning and code enforcement)
- Trails and Recreation

In July we will be bringing in the Urban Mayor with a similar format and questions.

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

Land Use/Transportation: Mr. Bergdahl, Subcommittee Vice Chairman gave a brief update of the activity.

- Greenways and Trails Plan had a public hearing last week at the Hilton with 12 people showing up. The Plan will be presented to Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee on June 4 and the Citizen Advisory Committee meets for the last time on May 28.
- There is a public hearing on June 4 for a couple of documents that will be forwarded at a later date.

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Community Development: Mr. Jarvis, Subcommittee Chairman, gave an update.

- Historic Preservation was discussed earlier in the meeting. Next meeting on June 1 at 3:30 p.m.
- Community Development has a meeting on May 28 at 10:30 a.m. one item of interest will be the discussion on a potential study of the Kankakee River and maybe Iroquois River with the scope of focus on environment, economy, and entertainment.

**New/Old Business.**

No new or old business.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- May 28, 2009 – Community Development Subcommittee at 10:30 a.m.
- June 1, 2009 – Historic Preservation Commission at 3:30 p.m.
- June 4, 2009 – Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee at 9:30 a.m.
- June 25, 2009 – Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee at 9:30 a.m.
- July 6, 2009 – Historic Preservation Commission at 3:30 p.m.
- July 28, 2009 – Regional Planning Commission Full Board at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bayston and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

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