

**Community Development Subcommittee
Summary of Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 29, 2008**

Call to Order: Jeff Jarvis; Chairman – Called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M.

Roll Call: *In Attendance*

Members – Craig Bayston, Dave Bergdahl and Jeff Jarvis

Staff – Mike Martin

Others - None

Absent: Not in Attendance

Members – Bud Bates, Bill Bukowski, Lisa Dugan, Barry Jaffe, Richard Simms and George Washington.

Declare Quorum: No Quorum

Public Comments: None

Old Business

A. Historic Preservation Program Update:

Mike Martin gave a short presentation about the Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Martin stated that the HPC has been meeting every month since February 2008. He said the HPC members were doing really well and have accomplished a lot in such a short time. He said that the HPC has approved a Historic Preservation ordinance that has also been approved by PZA and is now being reviewed by the State Attorney's Office. Mr. Martin also said the HPC has been working on becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG) by the State of Illinois. The application is being drafted and is approximately 75% complete. Mr. Martin also went on to say that the HPC has also been working on the old 1977 survey of historic places in Kankakee County and now has it in Computer file format to allow for future editing and additional information to be added. Eventually the data base file will be able to serve as a Historic Preservation data base for the GIS system. Mr. Martin was very happy with the work that has been accomplished thus far.

New Business:

A. Quality of Life Indicators:

Mike Martin mentioned that he and Jeff Jarvis attended the CMAP "GOTO 2040 indicators workshop" in LaGrange, Illinois on August 14th 2008. He described the program CMAP is working on and mentioned the many possibilities and types of indicators that could be measured. Jeff Jarvis mentioned that the municipalities themselves would be a good source for information to support the indicators project. Jeff also mentioned that Elisabeth Dunbar with the workforce board would also be another good resource for indicator data. Jeff also mentioned that municipal building permits would be a good indicator. Mr. Bayston said that he could look into the permit info/data gathering from the municipalities and then thought it

would be a good idea to share the reports with the municipalities. This would allow them to compare themselves to each other. Mr. Bayston also mentioned that the assessor's office may have some of this data. Other ideas included dollars in permits versus dollars in improvements per the assessor's office. Jeff Jarvis also mentioned comparing the tax rates for the different municipalities including the County, Manteno, Bradley, Bourbonnais and Kankakee. Dave Bergdahl mentioned that the EZ for residential areas would be a good idea; however, he would like to see it in a smaller definitive area, for example the triangle from Court Street, Schuyler and the river. Jeff Jarvis also mentioned that Bruce Cowhig with neighborhood partners of Kankakee would also be a good data source. Jeff Jarvis thought the following indicators would be very valuable. Cost of living (source unknown), income data (work force board), education (schools annual report card), health and environment (hospitals and water company), permits and construction (building departments), transportation (metro and highway departments), entertainment (convention and visitors bureau) and safety (police and fire departments).

B. Foreclosure Issues and Sustainability:

Mr. Martin pointed out a June internet article on Chicago (WBBM Radio 780) that states that Kankakee County had the highest foreclosure rate in the state of Illinois. Illinois now ranks 11th in the nation when it comes to foreclosure rates. Kankakee County was the first in the state with a 138 % hike in foreclosures last month (May). Dave Bergdahl believes that Kankakee County hasn't seen the worst yet. He believes that construction workers that lost their jobs back in November 2007 have now run out of their six months of unemployment and thinks it could even go higher. Jeff Jarvis went on to say that sustainability includes many different facets and that KCC is promoting sustainability. Jeff mentioned that Jerry Webber would be a good source to contact and possibly have him guest speak. All agreed that the cost of construction is ailing improvements and investment. Jeff suggested that we get a list of all the building departments in the county and try to obtain monthly updates on building permits within the county as a whole. Dave Bergdahl also suggested that we look at the top rated places indicators to see what they use to generate their conclusions.

B. 2009 work Program:

Mr. Martin mentioned that the committee should begin to think about the 2009 work program. Several topics were mentioned that should be included in the program. Items included quality of life indicators program, foreclosure issues, sustainability programs, support for the traditional main street programs, support for urban infill incentive programs, and river programs.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bayston and seconded by Mr. Bergdahl, motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.