

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Rich Howell, Dave Bergdahl, Ralph Paarlberg, Mel Blanchette, George Washington, Chad Miller, Jeff Jarvis, Craig Blanchette, Loretto Cowhig and Tim Schmidt

Others:

Del Skimerhorn, Mike Lammey and Jim Greenstreet, County Planning Department, Mark Rogers and Diane Redwitz, County Highway Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Chairman Howell recognized Mark Rogers and Diane Redwitz from the County Highway Department and thanked them for attending.

MINUTES

Chairman Howell pointed out that some corrections were made to the August 20, 2009 draft minutes, but that they had not yet been printed for review. It was agreed to vote on the minutes at the December meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Cowhig moved to retain the current officers (Rich Howell, chairman and Dave Bergdahl as Vice-Chairman). The motion was seconded by Mr. Paarlberg, and passed unanimously.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

Mr. Lammey and Mr. Skimerhorn reported that the next educational seminar for local public officials will be held on November 19, 2009 on the topic of Downtown Development. The scheduled speakers thus far include John Lamont of the Lakota Group and Janine Loftus, Executive Director of the Main Street Momenca program. Future meetings are scheduled for January 21, 2010 on Public Finance 101; March 18, 2010 on Impacts of Tourism; and May 20, 2010 on Business Retention and Attraction. The meetings will be held from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Quality Inn & Suites in Bradley.

Mr. Craig Blanchette stated that the first program on Development and Land Use Decision Making on September 17th was very well received. Subcommittee members stated that they had heard from other participants that the seminar was very worthwhile. Mr. Blanchette stated that there did not seem to be enough time to discuss the topic material fully. Mr. Paarlberg stated that the room acoustics were less than ideal.

There was general agreement that the seminars should continue beyond the scheduled May date. The cost factor was discussed with the location facility being one of the higher expenses, and printing and postage being another high cost. It was suggested to use less expensive facilities, such as the Bourbonnais Community Room, if available.

CRASH REPORT MAPPING

Mr. Greenstreet reported on the progress in mapping crash locations in the County. He recognized and thanked Ms. Diane Redwitz for her work on the project, including creating the maps displayed in the presentation. Maps were shown for 2004 through 2008 for both county-wide and MPO/MPA areas of the County. These maps showed the locations of serious injury and fatal crashes for each year.

The years of 2004 through 2006 have had the crash data reviewed and edited. The years 2007 through 2008 maps are from raw data from IDOT and have not been edited. The ultimate goal is to make the map data available to the respective police agencies and local governments so they can click on the map point showing a crash location and be able to review the actual crash report (with confidential information redacted). From that information, the transportation engineers can identify safety issues with roadways and intersections and apply for Federal Highway Safety Funds as needed. Police agencies can identify areas that need increased traffic enforcement to reduce crashes.

Ms. Redwitz reported that the Highway Department and Planning Department have been working with the GIS Department to create the link system for viewing the crash report from the map screen. The GIS Department has been looking at Arc and Google Map systems to find the one that will be most functional for the various departments within the County.

The Subcommittee recommended showing the progress with the Crash Report Mapping to the highway Committee and to the PZA Committee. It was also recommended to put information from this study into the next version of the County Transportation Brochure.

2010 WORK PROGRAM AND 2005 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Lammey began the discussion on the 2010 Work Program by stating that Mr. Greenstreet will be making a presentation on the recommendations of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan at the December Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee meeting. This will serve as a reminder of those recommendations, and will help the discussion of the 2010 Work Program.

Mr. Skimerhorn discussed the draft 2010 work elements list provided to members, and stated that Item #2 should be corrected to read "Listing Certified Industrial Ready Sites". He stated that the Bradley Route 50 Corridor study will address access management and beautification.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that planning is included for continuing educational seminars beyond the May 2010 date, and asked for suggestions for future topics. He stated that Mock Hearings will be scheduled for training purposes.

The River Study has been proposed in the Community Development Subcommittee to review the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers as to conservation, land use, economic development, flood plain awareness, beautification, and more. Mr. Jarvis indicated there would not be one large all-

encompassing study, but instead the identification of various needs in the different areas to suggest smaller, manageable topic area studies, to be done by a variety of different entities.

Mr. Schmidt reminded all of the progress made with the River Front Trail, which will have a ribbon cutting at Noon on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Boat Launch area at River Road Park.

Other issues to be addressed include:

- Sustainability and Green Issues
- Bike/Walk – Complete Street Issues
- Mini-Plans
 - St. Anne
 - Momence
 - Herscher
 - Limestone
 - Sammons Point

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Cowhig asked that there be a unified local effort to get an accurate Census count. GIS was suggested as an available tool to use to help get more accurate data. Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the Census Bureau has met with him several times to prepare for the upcoming Census. He stated that Marilyn Campbell at the Economic Alliance is working with the Census, and it was suggested that she be on the Agenda for the next RPC meeting to report on the status.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will be:

- December 17, 2009 @ 9:30 A.M. @ County Administration Building, 2nd Floor
- Date changed from February 25, 2010 to **March 4, 2010** @ 9:30 A.M. @ County Administration Building, 2nd Floor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Washington, seconded by Mr. Bergdahl. Unanimous vote. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 10:53 A.M.