

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
DECEMBER 20, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Jeff Jarvis, Ralph Paarlberg, George Washington, Craig Blanchette, Rich Howell, Mel Blanchette, Chad Miller, Bud Bates and Dave Bergdahl

Others:

Del Skimerhorn, Mike Lammey and Mike Martin, Kankakee County

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Martin, a new hire of the Planning Department. He stated that Mr. Martin will be the staff person in charge of the Community Development Subcommittee. The remainder of the Subcommittee introduced themselves.

MINUTES

Mr. Paarlberg moved approval of the October 25, 2007 Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee minutes. Mr. Craig Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

LESA PROGRAM UPDAYE

Chairman Howell discussed the need for the LESA Program to be updated and asked that the issue be placed on the next PZA Agenda.

WINDFARM ISSUE

Chairman Howell stated his concern that the windfarm issue was about to be faced by Kankakee County, and that there were no current regulations in place to deal with the issue. He stated that the regulations recently drawn up by Mr. Skimerhorn dealt with individual small wind energy systems, and not with commercial windfarm proposals. Chairman Howell stated that he believed such a proposal would be coming in the near future.

Several Subcommittee members expressed their concern about various portions of the windfarm

issue, and Mr. Washington moved that the 2008 Work Program for the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee be amended to include the preparation of necessary regulations for windfarms. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Washington moved that the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee recommend to the full Regional Planning Commission, to be forwarded to the PZA Committee, that staff be given direction to prepare draft regulations for windfarm development. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

COMMUTER TRANSIT

Mr. Lammey stated that the Commuter Transit Task Force approved the Final Report for the Phase II Feasibility Study at their December 11, 2007 meeting. He showed the project website, and discussed the documents that were available on that website. He stated that the major piece of news to come out of the Task Force meetings was that Metra intends to extend the Metra Electric District line to North Peotone Road in Peotone, and that this improvement would have a very positive impact on commuters in Kankakee County.

SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE/CONSERVATION DESIGN

Mr. Skimerhorn reported that both ordinances are being prepared in codified form by office staff, and that when that step is completed, both will be submitted to the States Attorney's Office for their review.

JOINT LRMP

Mr. Skimerhorn reported that the intention is for Kankakee County to jointly adopt Land Use Plans of jurisdictions in Kankakee County, and for those jurisdictions to also adopt the Comprehensive Plan of Kankakee County. He reported those communities in each group of adoptions.

Chairman Howell stated that the ad hoc Committee suggested by the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee and the Regional Planning Commission to be formed to deal with the updating of the LESA issue has not been addressed by the PZA, and should be included on a future PZA Agenda.

CRITICAL COMMERCE CORRIDOR

Mr. Lammey stated that a recent Tribune article indicated interest in this issue by Lake County, Indiana. Mr. Lammey stated that the article was forwarded to Mr. Kruse, who has been involved in all of the Critical Commerce Corridor discussions. Mr. Lammey stated that staff of Kankakee County have been involved in discussions with CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning) staff on both of the east-west corridor issues.

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTING

Mr. Lammey stated that a training session of local police on the accident forms will be held in February 2008.

WORK PROGRAM

Chairman Howell and Mr. Washington reported on the discussion held at the December 12 PZA meeting, and the request to provide a report on the accomplishments of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee. Mr. Lammey provided a draft report to the Subcommittee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Howell invited all to a breakfast that will be held on January 31 at 7 AM, where the speaker will be an ag economist from Illinois State university who will speak on the windfarm issue.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that the next scheduled meeting is February 19, 2008 at 9:30 A.M. in the METRO Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jarvis moved adjournment, and Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 11:05 A.M.