



APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #2
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013
CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS**

The Rock Island Planning Commission held a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers at 1528 – 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Levin at 5:18 PM. Present were Commissioners Michael Creger, Bruce Harding, David Levin, Jason Lopez, Diane Oestreich, Lorian Swanson and Berlinda Tyler-Jamison. Commissioners Ted Johnson, Norm Moline, Kevin Nolan and Bruce Peterson were absent. Also in attendance were Ben Griffith, Brandy Howe and Consultants Scott Harrington, Jessica Schmiedicke and Ashley Robertson of Vandewalle & Associates.

AN ORDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 MEETING

The Commission considered the matter of approval of the minutes of the September 3, 2013 meeting. Chairman Levin asked if there were any revisions or corrections necessary and hearing none, asked for a motion. Commissioner Creger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Tyler-Jamison seconded the motion and the Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Howe reported that the on-line community survey had been extended to the end of September with over 400 respondents so far. She gave a brief overview of the events of the previous days, including the Community Visioning Workshop at the MLK Center, various focus group meetings, and meetings with students at Augustana College and Rock Island High School.

Commissioner Levin asked about the schedule for the comprehensive planning process since it seemed that the City was getting a late start. Mr. Griffith replied that all state grant applications are audited in Springfield and it was found that a Parks & Recreation grant had been completed but not closed, so the City's "IKE Grant" was placed on hold. It took several months to clear all the paperwork and even though the City got a late start, the State was not going to allow any extension of the deadlines.

Consultant Scott Harrington introduced himself to the Commissioners and gave a brief description of his work background, including Assistant City Administrator for Planning in Moline. He then

began a PowerPoint presentation and explained the Economic Activity Analysis Map. Consultant Jessica Schmiedicke explained the assets and values from the workshop, focus groups and surveys.

Commissioner Tyler-Jamison stated that it was important to have representatives of all demographics for input. There was a brief discussion about the makeup of the previous evening's workshop and how the planning process outreach activities were concluded.

Ms. Schmiedicke provided a listing of challenges, opportunities and focus group concerns, as well as policy and development priorities for the comprehensive planning process. Mr. Harrington summarized by stating that Vandewalle was trying to help the City figure out what it needs to do and how to do it.

Chairman Levin stated that he would like to see the Planning Commission as a focus group, adding that it would be beneficial to the process.

Commissioner Oestreich stated that she and Commissioner Lopez had attended the workshop the night before and wondered how the survey results would be summarized.

Commissioner Lopez stated that even with an indefinite amount of time, something would be missed, but that the process focuses on the big issues and they eventually rise to the top. He suggested that Commissioner Tyler-Jamison attend the next visioning workshop, adding that even though there were no Hispanics at the last one, several nationalities were represented and he was satisfied.

Commissioner Tyler-Jamison stated that she was pleased with the outreach efforts and appreciated that the consultants and staff were going out into the community and making it happen.

Mr. Harrington stated that the forum provided for the exchange of ideas among many different people on many different subjects and that it was always good to hear different points of view.

Commissioner Swanson stated that the Commissioners should be ambassadors of the community, that the focus should be on our fine parks and to have facts to counter what certain other groups and "nimbys" were saying negatively about the City of Rock Island. She concluded by stating that overcoming the City's negative image was going to be the most difficult thing to do.

Commissioner Lopez stated that it's always a challenge to get citizens to realize that new businesses are needed and that will also be difficult when the new businesses wish to locate in or near a residential area.

Mr. Harrington stated that the City leaders, both elected and appointed, would need to walk the walk and not just talk the talk when dealing with difficult projects, adding that objectives sometimes get lost while arguing over the details and that sometimes you need to step back and define objectives, then you can usually find some commonality and work your way toward a workable solution.

Chairman Levin asked what the next steps were. Mr. Harrington answered that the first task would be to summarize and analyze all of the data which had been collected so far, as well as the pending survey data. Once finished, that information could be presented to the Planning Commission and Ms. Howe could begin drafting the plan document.

Commissioner Oestreich asked about the mitigation component of the plan since it was a major tenet of the grant award. Ms. Schmiedicke answered that the typical natural hazard was flooding, but that it would not be difficult for the City since it was protected by a certified levee system and that Rock Island County already had a hazard mitigation plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments provided at the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Oestreich reminded everyone about Bi-State Regional Commission's APA Audio Conference Series and asked Mr. Griffith if he had updated the distribution list. He stated that he had sent it to Patty Pearson and would send the Audio Conference listing to the newly appointed Planning Commissioners.

Mr. Griffith reminded the Commissioners about the second Community Visioning Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, September 24th at St. Pius Catholic Church, beginning at 6:00 PM. He also reminded the Commissioners to be mindful of *ex parte* communication and to call the Planning Office with any questions about any upcoming agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Levin asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Oestreich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:17 PM, which was seconded by Commissioner Lopez. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission would be October 1, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Griffith, AICP