

**MCHENRY COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2006**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ms. SuzAnne Ehardt.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Ronald Bauman, James Coughlin, Jerry Davenport, Dennis Dreher, Charles Eldredge, Frank Harrison, Craig Hubert, John Jung, Jr., James McNutt, Nancy Schietzelt, Jeremy Shaw, C. William Swenson and RB Thompson.

Also in attendance, Ann Gilman, Peter Austin and members of the public.

Commissioners Absent: Timothy Culbertson

Staff: SuzAnne Ehardt, Maryanne Wanaski, Matthew Hansel and Audrey Martin

Welcoming Comments

Ms. SuzAnne Ehardt, Director, McHenry County Planning and Development, Mr. Peter Austin, McHenry County Administrator, and Ms. Ann Gilman, Planning and Development Committee Chairman, started the meeting by welcoming all of the Commissioners.

Mr. Austin explained they are planning to create a Commission web site. This would be a good source of information, as well as, allow municipalities to be up to date on what the Commission is doing.

Each Commissioner was given a notebook of information for reference. Ms. Ehardt went through some of the content. There was a suggestion that text be added in front of the legend on the LESA map for clarity.

Discussion

The Commissioner's then introduced themselves and explained why they wanted to serve on the Commission.

Mr. Jerry Davenport said he is interested in participating in something that he thinks is very critical and has been critical of in the past. He felt it was important to now be a participant.

Mr. Frank Harrison stated he had strong opinions regarding the previous plan. He has done zoning work and was familiar with the 2010 Plan. He would like to

make sure the comprehensive plan is realistic enough to recognize market forces. Mr. Harrison said he believes the plan should accommodate growth, and find the best locations for the subdivision of land.

Mr. RB Thompson stated he wants the County to be stand-alone. He would like to see improvements in transportation, conservation and agriculture.

Mr. John Jung, serves as the County Board liaison to the Planning Commission. He explained any questions the Commission has for the County Board can be directed to him. He would like to see McHenry County grow in an orderly and consistent fashion.

Mr. Bill Swenson stated he has corporate planning experience. He would like to see preservation of farms. He feels there is a lack of industry in the County and said we need to find areas of the County that work for industry. He would like to find a balance between acreage and small mixed-use.

Mr. Ron Bauman said farmland needs to be preserved. He said we should choose the most productive farmland and keep it. Subdivisions have been spread around and they are competing with farm machinery on the roads. Subdivision locations need to be looked at carefully.

Ms. Nancy Schietzelt said she would like to see the beauty of McHenry County preserved. She has been a teacher for 25 years and has seen what happens to schools when growth occurs without some planning. Water is also a concern of hers.

Mr. Craig Hubert said he is for the promotion of open space. He says he has a strong feeling about this issue and wants to do his part in contributing to the planning process.

Mr. Dennis Dreher is a water resource engineer. He specializes in stormwater and floodplain management. He believes in sustainable development, which encompasses environmental compatibility, economic sustainability, community values and quality of life.

Mr. Jim McNutt has worked with villages and townships and would like to come up with a good plan for the future. He stated he loves McHenry County and wants to do his part to keep the County a great place to live.

Mr. Jeremy Shaw said he is looking forward to being part of the process because he intends on living and working in the County for the rest of his life. He wants the best for the County.

Mr. Charles Eldredge said he believes in the development and preservation of historic and natural resources. He wants to reach out to the young people of McHenry County. Mr. Eldredge added he feels it is important to include the municipalities and the villages in what the Commission is doing.

Mr. Jim Coughlin informed the Commission he is a developer and is proud of the company he works for. He said the company cares about what they build, how they build it and the type of open space incorporated in the plans. They are proactive when it comes to working with natural resources. Mr. Coughlin is concerned about affordable housing and wants to find a way to help bring ideas that building and development need to be in the County.

Ms. Ann Gilman stated she was very impressed with the knowledge and experience of the Commission. She informed the Commission she will be retiring at the end of month from her position as Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee and from the County Board.

Staff then introduced themselves and gave background information on their experience.

Ms. SuzAnne Ehardt is the Director of the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. She has worked for the department for 27 years. Ms. Ehardt received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and Sociology. She also has a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Land Use Planning. She worked for the City of Woodstock which gave her experience in the community, as well as the County from a planning perspective.

Ms. Maryanne Wanaski is the Deputy Director and Principal Planner for the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. She has worked in the department for 11 years. She has an undergraduate degree in finance and economics and Master's Degree in Urban Policy and Planning with an emphasis on site design.

Mr. Matt Hansel is the Deputy Director and Building Code Manager for the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development and has worked for the department for 6 years. He has a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. He has completed two inventories for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on forestry and agriculture.

Ms. Ehardt informed the Commission that they have the ability to make changes to the day they would like to meet and the time of the meetings. The Commission also has the ability to make assignments to sub committees. Staff will attend all Commission and working group meetings.

A PowerPoint presentation followed. Notes are attached.

There was also a brief discussion of the Will County Plan. It was noted that everyone who has read it is impressed. Copies of the plan will be distributed to the Commission for informational purposes.

Other Business

Nomination of Officers

Motion by Ms. Schietzelt to nominate Mr. Dreher for Chairperson. After some discussion, there was no second.

Motion by Mr. Eldredge, seconded by Mr. Shaw to nominated Mr. Jung for Chairperson. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Schietzelt, seconded by Mr. Hubert, to nominate Mr. Dreher for Vice Chairperson. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Swenson, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to nominate RB Thompson as secretary. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

There was a discussion on meeting dates and times. It was decided to keep the dates of the meetings on the second Thursday of each month. After a discussion on meeting times, the following motion was made:

Motion by Ms. Schietzelt, seconded by Mr. Hubert, to move the start time of the Planning Commission meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Schietzelt, seconded by Mr. Hubert to adjourn. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.