

McHenry County Regional Planning Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2008

Commissioners Present: Chairman Charlie Eldredge, RB Thompson, Ron Bauman, Craig Hubert, Nancy Schietzelt, Mike Rein, Jerry Davenport and Frank Harrison

Commissioners Absent: Jim McNutt, Bill Swenson, Jeremy Shaw, Dennis Dreher and John Jung

Also present: Joseph Gottemoller, Conor Brown, Nancy Wagner, Joshua Cedergren, Patricia Kennedy, Dan Volkers, Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, Tom Harding, Tamara Valentine Garza, Ersel Schuster, Robert Ludwig, Chris Manheim, Randi Wille, John Darger, Lisa Haderlein and Jane Collins, Peter Austin, County Administrator, Barbara Wheeler, County Board

Staff: Matthew Hansel, Maryanne Wanaski and Cindy Sassaman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eldredge called to order at 6:18 p.m.

Chairman Eldredge briefly spoke about a presentation he attended by Commonwealth Edison, AT & T, RFP Mapping and the Green Business Coalition to the Economic Development Corporation. The presentation dealt with developments in infrastructure and the near future in terms of improvements and changes. He felt the information was very interesting and noted a few highlights. Chairman Eldredge explained that everyone likes when Com Ed runs their wires underground, but what they do not know is the repair time for underground lines is 20 to 40 times longer than overhead lines. AT & T presented its Uverse System which will be expanding into McHenry County. It has features to allow you to program anything in your home that is programmable and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. He mentioned that you can program anything in a smart house or house of the future. RFP Mapping is a McHenry County based company, a joint venture between Baxter & Woodman Engineering and Pendergrast Aerial Photography. They identify species of trees from aerial mapping at 2 foot gradients rather than the normal 10 foot spans. He mentioned that they are using technology from the military that has been release for civilian use and will permit a much more detailed analysis of land at a much lower cost. The Green Technology Coalition is an affiliate of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce; they encourage the use of green technology. They showed that going green is profitable for businesses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Economic Development Draft Review - continuation

The Commission continued reviewing the Economic Development Chapter and made changes based on comments from Commissioners.

Mr. Harrison arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Davenport provided additional verbiage to be added to the chapter and provided written copies for Commissioners to review.

The Commission completed their review of the Economic Development section.

Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

There was a short break from 7:20 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the additions provided by Mr. Davenport. Mr. Davenport suggested adding the top 20 highest and lowest paying jobs to the appendix. The jobs in this list will include a specific date when the timeframe regarding when the wages /information was compiled.

Changes were made to the additional verbiage based on comments from Commissioners.

Motion by Mr. Davenport, seconded by Mr. Harrison that the Economic Development section along with the additional verbiage be forwarded to the Planning & Development Committee on October 23nd meeting, with corrections made. All aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Davenport presented the Commission with GIS mapping showing environmental and agricultural constraints.

Public Comment

Chris Manheim MEDC spoke on the best practices comments. His perception is that there are some old ideas of what is an industrial use. It has really changed over the years and is now greener and sustainable. The county has a good opportunity to see where the economic corridors are located. Today there are new methods and a newly skilled workforce. He asked that everyone not think of it as the traditional 1950's industrial use. These industrial uses will add value and highly skilled jobs to the county. Mr. Manheim submitted two handouts to the Commission.

Pat Kennedy stated that she will hold her comments until the next meeting in the interest of time.

Motion by Mr. Hubert, seconded by Mr. Davenport to adjourn the meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.