

MINUTES
BLOOMINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014, 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
109 EAST OLIVE STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Balmer, Mr. Cain, Mr. Suess, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Scritchlow,
Mr. Protzman, Mr. Diamond

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Stanczak, Mr. Cornell, Mr. Wills

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Vasu Pinnamaraju, Executive Director of McLean County
Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mark Woolard, City Planner

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Cain called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Woolard called the roll. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: The Commission reviewed the November 12, 2014 minutes. Mr. Pearson moved to approve the November 12, 2014, minutes as written. Mr. Suess seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 7-0 with the following votes being cast on roll call: Mr. Scritchlow-yes; Mr. Pearson-yes; Mr. Cain-yes; Mr. Balmer-yes; Mr. Protzman-yes; Mr. Suess-yes; Mr. Diamond-yes; Mr. Stanczak-absent; Mr. Cornell-absent; Mr. Wills-absent.

REGULAR AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of Comprehensive Plan: Ms. Vasudha Pinnamaraju presented the community visioning part of the comprehensive plan which has been compiled into the document entitled, A Vision for the Future. She said the document contains open ended responses from the person's community experience. While the comprehensive plan is intended to guide land use and growth, there are aspects of the data that are beyond the responsibility of the city and not all data will be used. Ms. Pinnamaraju stated the collected data is what was heard from over 2,000 people and is representative of our community. She presented the core values including, the small town feel with big city amenities, strong elements of heritage with a sense of belonging, safety, education and entertainment. Concern was expressed regarding the support of education, the east/west divide, local businesses and entrepreneurs. She stated the newer neighborhood members expressed a need for being connected, a need to provide affordable housing and that there were many negative comments on cul-de-sacs. She presented positive feedback on the infrastructure such as the street system, parks, trails and municipal service systems with an emphasis on prioritizing repair over the building new. Ms. Pinnamaraju stated there was a common theme of 'fix it' rather than new, however the exception to the 'fix it' theme came from the parks and trails connection for the purpose of safety. Other high community service values includes the farmers market, quality health services, safety for walkers and bikers,

alternative choices for modes of transportation and expanding local dining options rather than chain restaurants.

Ms. Pinnamaraju stated the visioning showed government services that are valued are police, fire, emergency, recycle/garbage, park and recreation, BCPA and the library. People want to see more recycling in public places, the efficient use of tax dollars, government transparency and communication. There was discussion on government transparency by the Planning Commission.

Ms. Pinnamaraju observed with any vision to come to fruition, there needs to be cooperation among the elected leaders. Residences thrive surrounded by rich history, arts and culture, lifelong learning opportunities, healthy environment and an active life style. There was discussion on the purpose and the language of the vision statement and the words vibrant, urban core and diverse.

Ms. Pinnamaraju stated people experience the community in its complexity and not in isolation. She said a majority of the information in the document are applicable to the comprehensive plan. There is recognition of approximately 6 percent of the responses that goes beyond the scope of the city's comprehensive plan including suggestions on the limitation of role of government. She stated the guiding themes at the end of each chapter will become the link between the vision and core values within the comprehensive plan. The guiding themes will be used to develop goals, objectives, actionable items, metrics and time lines. She said some of the themes included encouraging the downtown small, local businesses, the acknowledgement of the downtown history and the need for improvement to preserve the unique local history. She stated other themes included a shortage of winter activities for the socioeconomically challenged youth and the aged. There was a support of local dining, farm-to-plate establishments from the aged 34 and younger. She said there was a concern over future support of local schools and the differences between the east and west side education. Ms. Pinnamaraju stated another theme emerged for the west side revitalization which suggested stricter code enforcement for lawns and homes. She presented the taxes and fees chapter which included a wide variety of responses. She stated there were many positive remarks regarding the community leadership with individual aldermen communication and there was a call to improve communication and cooperation. She stated most comments regarding green spaces and parks were positive with suggestions to create larger sports venues and a dog park. The infrastructure responses included expanding bike trails in order to have transportation options beyond the use of a vehicle. Veteran's parkway seemed to be a major safety concern.

Ms. Pinnamaraju invited the commission's feedback by the end of this year. There was discussion on the comprehensive plan timeline and processes. She said the compilation of data will complete the second phase and provide a basis for development of goals and objectives for the third phase of The Comprehensive Plan.

NEW BUSINESS: Election of Officers: Mr. Balmer nominated Chairman Cain for Chairman which was supported by Mr. Scritchlow. Mr. Pearson nominated Mr. Balmer for Vice Chairman which was supported by Mr. Scritchlow. Chairman Cain asked if there were any other nominations for Chair or Vice Chair positions and no one spoke. Chairman Cain closed the nominations. There was discussion on new term limit ordinance. The motion passed by a vote of

7 to 0 with the following votes being cast on roll call: Mr. Suess-yes; Mr. Pearson-yes; Mr. Cain-yes; Mr. Balmer-yes; Mr. Protzman-yes; Mr. Scritchlow-yes; Mr. Diamond-yes; Mr. Cornell-absent; Stanczak-absent; Mr. Wills-absent.

2015 meeting dates: Mr. Woolard presented the calendar dates and how the regularly scheduled November meeting falls on the Veterans Day Holiday. There was discussion regarding the meeting date options. Mr. Protzman moved to hold the regularly scheduled November meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015. Mr. Pearson seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the Bloomington Planning Commission's attention, Mr. Balmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Suess supported the motion which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Woolard, City Planner

For further information contact:

Mr. Woolard, City Planner

Department of Planning and Code Enforcement

Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: (309) 434-2341 Fax: (309) 434-2857

E-mail: mwoolard@cityblm.org