



## Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 3:30 PM  
Region 1 Planning Council  
127 N. Wyman St., Ste 100, Rockford, IL 61101

### Minutes

#### 1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Martesha Brown at 3:31 PM.

#### 2) Roll Call

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A3 Environmental Consultants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Land Institute
<input type="checkbox"/>	AGHL Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	NICNE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere Chamber of Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ogle County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Conservation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RAMP Disability Resources & Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Riverview Inn & Suites "Cliffbreakers"
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Soil & Water Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley College
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boys & Girls Club of Rockford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Reality Project (Northern Illinois)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Community Solutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Public Library (4:14)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois (3:36)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highland Community College (3:32)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severson Dells
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hope Fellowship (4:19)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stateline Mass Transit District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I Bike Rockford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temple Beth-El (3:33)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ignite Change Solutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Workforce Connection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illinois REALTORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	UW Health SwedishAmerican
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago Co.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifescape (3:35)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midland States Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim Association of Greater Rockford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizen - Dyanna Rose Walker
<input type="checkbox"/>	NAACP Rockford Chapter		

#### 3) Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.



#### 4) Action Items

##### a) *Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes*

**Motion** by RAMP, seconded by Rock Valley College, to **approve** the Action Item. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

##### b) *Officer Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for Executive Board*

Mrs. Glatz explained that nominations will be recommended to the R1 Governing Board, which will then approve them for this advisory forum.

Martesha Brown was nominated for chair and Tim Bragg was nominated for vice-chair. The nominations will then be approved by the R1 Governing Board at its next meeting.

#### 5) Discussion Items

##### a) *August 27, 2026 Meeting Canceled*

Mrs. Glatz explained that this meeting is close to Labor Day and will be canceled. The cancellation meeting invite will go out after the meeting.

##### b) *RMTD – Mobility Management Plan*

SRF Consulting Group staff member Bill Troe presented on the scope of RMTD's Mobility Management study. RMTD is beginning to develop a mobility management program, which will provide coordination between regional transportation providers so they can more efficiently provide services that meet the community's needs. The consultants are now gathering information about currently available transportation options and services. They will then determine community wants, review concepts, and provide a finished action plan.

Future engagement opportunities will largely be available via interview with select agencies. The study is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2026; SRF Consulting Group will provide periodic updates to this group.



## 6) Agency Reports

### a) *Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) Updates*

#### 1) *Keith Creek*

Jackson Sitter, R1 Planner, mentioned that Keith Creek's neighborhood plan is complete and will be presented to the community at their final meeting on April 30. Construction should begin this summer.

#### 2) *Midtown*

Tim Verbeke, R1 Director of Planning, shared that Midtown neighborhood, the second LCI recipient has just collected community input on their revitalization wants. The community will discuss proposed ideas at the next meeting on May 7.

#### 3) *Round 3*

Tim Verbeke announced that Round 3 details will be presented at the June CAF meeting. Round 3 will expand the number of eligible neighborhoods, with 15 neighborhoods being eligible to apply for technical assistance, expanding the initiative's reach and impact.

Details for all LCI projects are available on Engage R1.

## 7) Other Business

### a) *United Way – 211 Community Feedback*

Mishel Browning, Community Resiliency Manager for United Way of Rock River Valley, gave an overview of the United Way's 211 line and improvements she is working on. 211 is a call/text resource line that connects residents with clothing, shelter, job opportunities, and other social resources.

The United Way is beginning activity to revitalize this service. Goals of this activity include:

- Spread the word about the service availability and benefits
- Confirm partner agencies' information in their database
- Create a marketing campaign
- Prepare for/respond to natural disasters
- Engage the community via listening session

Ms. Browning asked the Forum to provide feedback on 211 by a group discussion of prepared questions.



**b) CAF Member Report Outs**

- Mrs. Glatz shared that Severson Dells Nature Center will rebrand as “Wild Roots Nature Center” as of July 1, 2026. They operate out of two locations: the old Elliot Golf Course (now called Prairie's Edge) and the original Severson Dells Forest Preserve (part of Forest Preserves of Winnebago County).
- Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has a new executive director, Dan Olson, and is seeking public input for its Strategic Plan. The survey is open through April 30.
- Temple Beth-El’s Food-a-Rama is happening on May 20. This is their largest fundraiser. It is a take-out lunch, serving corned beef sandwiches and other Jewish foods.
- The Rockford Public Library’s Summer Reading Challenge Kickoff is May 16 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the downtown branch.
- I Bike Rockford's Swarm the Market bike ride series begins May 15 at 6:30 pm and runs on Friday evenings through the end of September. Those interested can meet at Ingersoll Centennial Park to take a casual, family-friendly ride around downtown and the Edgewater neighborhood, lasting 45 minutes. Check their Facebook event for more info.
- Midland States Bank offers a series of community educational sessions in order to provide financial education to families in need. If you know of families who may be interested, contact Martesha Brown for details.



## 8) Meeting Takeaways

The meeting highlights:

- Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) Updates
- Future RMTD Activity
- United Way – 211 Promotion and Feedback
  - Reach out to Mishel Browning
- Future Report Out Opportunity at meetings

## 9) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 3:30–5:00 PM

## 10) Adjournment

**Motion** by RAMP, seconded by Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority, to **adjourn**.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 PM.

Opportunities for public comment. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.