



Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, June 26, 2025, 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 3:32 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AGHL Law (3:34)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Land Institute
<input type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere Chamber of Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NICNE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ogle County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	Olson Ecological Solutions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Soil & Water Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RAMP Disability Resources & Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boys & Girls Club of Rockford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley College
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cliffbreakers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate Reality Project (Northern Ill) (3:52)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District (3:35)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Community Solutions (3:36)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Public Library
<input type="checkbox"/>	IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severson Dells
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highland Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Club Northwest River Valleys Chapter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hope Fellowship (3:51)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stateline Mass Transit District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I Bike Rockford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temple Beth-El
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ignite Change Solutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Workforce Connection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Illinois REALTORS (3:42)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UW Health SwedishAmerican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (3:35)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago Co.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifescape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County (3:44)	<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"/>	Dyanna Rose Walker
<input type="checkbox"/>	NAACP Rockford Chapter	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.





4. **Action Items**

a. **Approval of May 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Motion by NICNE, seconded by UW Health SwedishAmerican, to **approve** the Action Item. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. **Discussion Items**

a. There were no items to discuss

6. **Agency Reports**

a. **Housing Counselor Introduction**

Jimmy Westenberg is the new Housing Counselor and gave an overview of his position at R1.

b. **Housing Scenario Planning – Activity**

Ellie Sander, R1, gave an overview of the Housing Coordination Plan that R1 is developing. Ms. Sander also asked the group to provide suggestions for additional demographic groups that R1 should consider including in focus groups in order to ensure a good representation of feedback.

Eric Tison, R1 Project Coordinator, gave a presentation on the YEP! (Youth Engagement in Planning) initiative. YEP! Meets with RPS 205 high school students to complete hands-on activities involving urban planning in order to introduce it as a career option. Megan Devine and Nathan Larsen, both part of the R1 YEP! team, led the group through an activity of discussion questions exploring housing and perceptions around it. The group then ranked various housing types based on desirability and community need.

7. **Other Business**

a. **RMTD Notifications of Service Updates**

RMTD Representatives: Erick Groshans, Transit Operations Planner, and Orlando Toatley, Marketing & Communications Manager, informed the group of changes it is implementing beginning September 1. It will increase frequency, add an additional hour of service, and add stops for specified routes. This provides additional coverage in response to user demand. Contact Erick Groshans with any questions.

8. **Meeting Takeaway**

a. Chelsey Glatz stated follow-up email will be sent out with information. The October meeting has changed to the 16th.



9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2025 from 3:30–5:00 PM

10. **Adjournment**

Motion by The Workforce Connection, seconded by Goodwill, to **adjourn**.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 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.