



Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, October 16, 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 3:35 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

<input type="checkbox"/>	A3 Environmental Consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAACP Rockford Chapter
<input type="checkbox"/>	AGHL Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Land Institute
<input type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere Chamber of Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NICNE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ogle County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAMP Disability Resources & Services
<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"/>	Cliffbreakers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate Reality Project (Northern Illinois)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Public Library
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Community Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/>	IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severson Dells
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois (3:53)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Club Northwest River Valleys Chapter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highland Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stateline Mass Transit District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hope Fellowship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temple Beth-El
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I Bike Rockford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Workforce Connection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ignite Change Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	UW Health SwedishAmerican
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illinois REALTORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago Co.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifescape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County (3:47)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midland States Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizen - Dyanna Rose Walker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim Association of Greater Rockford	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Addition Members: LCI Stakeholders and LCI Presenters

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.



4. **Action Items**

a. *Approval of August 2025 Meeting Minutes*

Motion by Rockford Consulting and Brokerage, seconded by RVC, to **approve** the Action Item. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. **Discussion Items**

a. None

6. **Agency Reports**

a. **Livable Communities Initiative Presentations**

Chloe Barnes gave an overview of the Livable Communities Initiative, including communicating the LCI timeline and scoring process. Two minutes are allotted after each presentation for CAF members to fill out their scoring sheets. The R1 governing board will be informed of the CAF's recommendation at their meeting in November.

a. **Ridge Avenue**

Dawn Granath, 9th Ward Alderperson, presented a plan to improve connectivity for residents without vehicles and identify areas around bus stops to be developed into gathering areas. The objective is to encourage families to move back, refresh the neighborhood, bring beauty and further develop open spaces, and rejuvenate involvement in the community.

Ms. Granath communicated a commitment to making community outreach in the 9th Ward a central component of the plan and that other sources of funding are available, including from the City of Rockford, to supplement what is provided by LCI.

Q&A followed.

b. **Signal Hill**

Jeannē Westholder and Dave Stoltz, Signal Hill neighborhood association co-presidents, presented their plan to provide education about and support rehabilitation of historic homes and businesses, and advocate for necessary infrastructure repairs. The neighborhood is on the National Register of Historic Places. Their overall goals are to provide rehabilitation support for historic homes, improve infrastructure, offer resources to residents, all intending to drive investment in the neighborhood.



Historically, some efforts have been started in this neighborhood; this proposal wants to continue and expand that efforts.

Proposed outreach includes door-to-door education, social media campaigns, and community workshops.

Aldersperson Tamir Bell spoke briefly to express his support for the neighborhood and project proposal.

Q&A followed.

c. Midtown

Taposhi S. Bently, Dharma Foundation Director, presented her plan for Midtown district, a complement to Broadway Reimagined. The plan is a mix of business redevelopment to take advantage of the large amount of vehicle traffic on Broadway. She is asking for funding for beautification (murals, signage), street cameras and lighting to deter crime, better ordinances for absentee landlords, and converting warehouses into livable space (hotel).

She noted that some of this work that's already begun in the 11th Ward is gaining momentum.

Jamie Salgado, Aldersperson for the 11th Ward spoke briefly to express his support and highlight some of the ideas already in process.

Q&A followed

b. Keith Creek Livable Communities Initiative – Update

Tim Verbeke showed the plan approved by Keith Creek neighborhood. The plan is for design/engineering in the spring of 2026 and construction expected to begin in the summer. The proposal is to develop the vacant Nelson School site into a park/greenspace. This plan will also be approved at the R1 Governing Board November meeting.



7. **Other Business**

Taposhi S. Bently from Dharma Foundation presented a framed picture of Michigan Avenue to Tim Verbeke as thanks for the work R1 is doing in the community and in commemoration of Dharma Foundation's 25th anniversary.

8. **Meeting Takeaways**

- a. Chelsey Glatz thanked all whom attended for this second round of the LCI as this is an important part for making projects a reality in the community.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025 from 3:30–5:00 PM

10. **Adjournment**

Motion by the Climate Reality Project, seconded by Temple Beth-El, to **adjourn**.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 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.