



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 4:00pm  
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

**ATTENDEES:** Ashley Sarver, Gary W. Anderson Architects; Ian Linnabary, Reno and Zahm; Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; Cynthia Hall, Winnebago County Health Department; Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department; Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department; Margaret Campbell, Region 1 Planning Council; Dhawal Kataria; Region 1 Planning Council; Colin Belle, Region 1 Planning Council Beverly Broyles; Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ian Linnabary called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Attendee Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- b) **Approval of the November 29, 2018 Meeting's Minutes:** Mr. Linnabary entertained a motion to approve the November 28, 2018 meeting minutes. First motion made to approve by Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District and seconded by Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- c) **RPC Board Meeting Recap:** Mr. Belle provided a brief recap.

### 2. UPDATES

a) Eric Setter (R1PC) Presentation on Northern Illinois Land Bank Authority – Including Discussion  
Late January the land bank was officially formed by an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Rockford, Boone County, Winnebago County and the City of Belvidere for a total value of \$225,000. A Land Bank is a new concept for our region. Currently there are two active land banks in IL, south suburban and Cook County. The land bank will focus on properties that have a dirty title, tax delinquent, liens, owner not able to be located, or may be deceased. Go to court get title free and clear and get it back in the hands of a land owner. Residential or commercial properties are eligible. The region is able to utilize the home rule through Belvidere authority and powers to acquire properties if needed. This program will mainly target the future owners of the property; dead restrictions may be in place such as certificate of occupancy within a certain time period or it will be put back to the land bank. Then once improvements have been made to the property it will be reassessed and then becomes a higher taxable property. Currently Mr. Setter w4orking on setting up a board of trustees. \$150k set aside for the acquisition of property. All property will go back into the account and moved to the next property purchases.

b) Sydney Turner, Metro Program Manager – An introduction to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process.

The MTP used to be the LRTP. Document looks out over the next 25-30 years focusing on the region's transportation priorities and needs. It is a Federally required document by IDOT and FWHA, and Federal Transit Authority, updated every 5 years to make sure new trends and technologies are captured. The Economy has taken a turn for the better since last MTP. Mainly focuses on transportation, not just physical roadways, but also

multimodal, rail, bike/ped, etc. The major updates or changes will be due to new federal regulations and policy, best practices. Strongly focus on performance based strategies, using targets and reporting our if we are meeting the targets. Community engagement has been going on for 2-3 months for initial round for priorities and needs. We have advertised locations as well as pop-up booths for public engagements. 108 unique interactions with public members during popup events. The survey will close tomorrow, 225 total completed surveys, both online and paper copies.

Scenario planning, looking at what the possible challenges and opportunities in our area, land use patters, potential growth boundary, infill, brownfields. This will be ne next step. Then going out to more public input for the goals and strategies built from the first round of public open house.

### 3. RELEVANT OPPORTUNITIES

- a) 2019 Bi-State Alternative Energy Conference
  - Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, 9:00am-3:30pm – Garber Center, Room Galve 3, 3435 9 ½ Avenue, Rock Island IL 61021 **\*Must Register for Event\***
- b) R1PC Open Positions, briefly mentioned the current open position with R1PC.
  - Land-Use Planner (Currently Interviewing Candidates)
  - Metropolitan Planner
  - Internships

### 4. LARGE GROUP SESSION

- a) Report Out from Each Working Group On Project Progress
- b) Land-Use Group reported that the Brownfield Inventory is still something of interest to pursue the clean-up of the data and to organize the information in a format that is more digestible.
- c) Education Group (KNIB)- Beverly discussed the resurrection of an old education program from 2004, hutch craft educational program, named after Rockford University Professor. Went dormant in 2008 due to funding. Public awareness through education and public outreach. Organizing a group of educators. 6 experienced educators all involved in different facets of environmental programs. Focuses on the 3”r”s, reduce, reuse, recycle.
- d) Mrs. Sarver -infrastructure group- setting priority for Keith creek greenways. America vista volunteer has been hired. This has implications for the hazard mitigation plan, flood mitigation, and neighborhood revitalization. Many key players have been connected and are working together.
- e) Energy Group Mr. Roos- this year’s sustainable communities conference is on October. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Mr. Roos is looking to plan a group to travel to the event if anyone is interested. Additionally, Mr. Roos is working on the Soulsmart Program and the Rockford Sustainability Summit scheduled for September 28, 2019
- f) Lime Bike - Mr. Roos asked what happened to Lime bike? Ms. Turner stated that Lime Bike is focusing on electric scooters and bikes which Rockford currently doesn’t have the market for.

### 5. ADJORNMENT

- a) Next Environmental Committee Meeting **March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
- b) Brad Roos moved to adjourn the February 28, 2019 Environmental Committee meeting, seconded by Ashley Sarver. Meeting ended at approximately 5:10pm