

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)

CHAIRPERSON: Diane Gallagher, Chairperson

DATE/TIME: October 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Diane Gallagher

☒ Steve Endress

☐ John Schultz

☒ Steve McIntyre (Zoom)

☒ Bob Heuerman

☒ LaDon Trost (Zoom-left 6:15 pm)

☒ John Lang (Zoom)

A quorum was established.

Other Board members: None.

Others: Lou Ann Hayes, Scott Toot and Kristina Tranel

1. Approval of Minutes –

- a) Review and approve minutes for the September 26, 2023 Development & Planning Committee meeting – Steve Endress made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 26, 2023 Development & Planning Committee meeting. Seconded by Bob Heuerman and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.

2. Citizens' Comments – None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Comprehensive Plan update including members of committee & public meeting results – Diane Gallagher commented that the Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Plan committee met earlier today and discussed quite a few items with MSA present. The survey has been filled out by 161 people online and the paper surveys have not been tabulated yet. They have been passing out information about the comp plan and getting information from people during the weekend when they have had public interactions at two of the grocery stores in Warren and Galena. They do want to have another event and they want to target some interviews. MSA will be doing some interviews with some stakeholders. Steve Wyland, Galena Territory Association, was in attendance at the Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Plan meeting and shared that they have 480 guest accommodations licenses in the Territory. There are 605 in the County right now as well. They have a cap on homes not larger than 6 bedrooms and there are about 1,000 lots that are empty. About 800 of those are buildable. Many people just use the amenities. They also had some maps that showed the circles of the mile and a half contiguous growth areas. The agreement with the County is that notification is made if anyone wants to develop within that mile and a half radius. It also defines where they really expect and want growth to occur. Within the document it was advised that they actually just put a link to the studies that have already taken place. They also did display identification of land use that is ag preservation. When those draft chapters are put together it sounded like they would be posted on the planning website in a draft form that could be edited. They also listed environmental corridors. The committee will meet again on the fourth Tuesday, November 28th at noon at the Hanover facility. The survey deadline will be November 22nd.
- b) Education and discussion of childcare in Jo Daviess County – Lou Ann Hayes, Birth to Five Regional Council Manager for Region 8 – Diane Gallagher commented that Lou Ann Hayes is joining the meeting via Zoom. Hayes explained the Birth to Five program is relatively new. They are here to basically help every corner of the state with Kindergarten readiness. Right now in Illinois only one in four children are ready for Kindergarten. The best way to get them prepared for Kindergarten is Preschool. If we can prepare the child for Kindergarten we are giving them a great opportunity to keep learning and growing. If they are not ready they will fall behind and just never catch up. Region 8 was tasked with developing a regional needs assessment. We put together an Action Council to come together and to write this with feedback from the Family Council. Using a Collective Impact Model, between September 2022 and June 2023, they led the Action and Family Councils

through data discussions to identify gaps and needs for children and families. They coordinated focus groups, interviews, and surveys to gather input from community members across the region. There are 1,174 children under the age of 5 in Jo Daviess County. The total number of child care openings in Jo Daviess County is 280. There are 2 licensed child care centers in Jo Daviess County. 76% of children ages 0 – 5 in Jo Daviess County do not have access to licensed child care services. Prevention Initiative Services are available to children ages 0 – 3 at or below 200% Federal Poverty Line. 250 children in Jo Daviess County who might qualify at 200% FPL. Prevention Initiative currently serves 50 children in Jo Daviess County. East Dubuque and River Ridge School Districts presents the biggest need.

- c) **Discussion and possible action on Blackjack Watershed Project request or collaboration/sponsorship with USDA and Illinois NRCS – Beth Baranski and Brad Petersburg** – This item was discussed at the September 26, 2023 Development & Planning Committee meeting. It was inadvertently put on tonight's agenda.
- d) **Discussion and possible action as a result of goal setting during biennial Board Retreat of July 6, 2023 (including strategies for problem solving)** – Diane Gallagher reviewed the committee goals that were included in the packet.

4. **New Business** – None.

5. **Reports**

a) **Building & Zoning**

- (i) **Monthly Report** – Kristina Tranel, Planning & Development Administrator, reported that construction permitting data for the past twelve months was included in the packet. In August, 29 building permits were issued with a total construction value estimate of \$3,230,750 which is a \$2.5 million monthly average. This included 3 new homes, 3 accessory buildings, 5 building additions, 4 decks, 6 residential alternative energy source permits and 7 others. Tranel virtually attended the IACZO Fall Conference. The conference presentations were included in the packet. Melissa Soppe presented to a group of approximately 20 realtors regarding Guest Accommodation licensing.

b) **Economic Development**

- (i) **NW Illinois Economic Development Monthly Report** – David Schmit, NW Illinois Economic Development Executive Director, was unable to attend the meeting. His report that was included in the packet along with an article on Clara Joyce Flowers that was included in the October Made in Northwest Illinois NWILED flyer and a Facebook post regarding Manufacturing & Trades Day which was hosted by NWILED.

c) **Blackhawk Hills Regional Council**

- (i) Diane Gallagher commented that Blackhawk Hills did not meet, so she has nothing new to report at this time.
- d) **LRA information from posted minutes** – Diane Gallagher talked with the Savanna Industrial Park and they are still in the midst of a major project.

6. **Citizens' Comments** – None.

7. **Board Member Concerns** – Bob Heuerman commented that the Clara Joyce Flowers is just up the road from him. It is quite an operation.

8. **Adjourn**

The next regular Development & Planning Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m. following a motion made by John Lang and seconded by Steve McIntyre. Motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.