



**Champaign County Board  
Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)  
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

**MINUTES – Approved as Distributed August 5, 2021**

DATE: Thursday, June 10, 2021  
 TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
 PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
 Brookens Administrative Center  
 1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802  
 and remote participation via Zoom

**Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Aaron Esry (Vice-Chair)	
Stephanie Fortado	
Mary King	
Kyle Patterson	
	Jacob Paul
Chris Stohr	
Eric Thorsland (Chair)	

**County Staff:** John Hall (Zoning Administrator), Susan Monte (Planner), and Mary Ward (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** None

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Thorsland called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Ms. Fortado to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. King.  
 Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to approve the Agenda.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. May 6, 2021

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mr. Patterson.  
 Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**V. Public Participation**

Cheryl Burr – spoke on the Walnut Lane issue. She stated that they have provided four letters from the neighborhood protesting the name change. There are only seven houses on this cul-de-sac. Some of the

residents have lived there 40-50 years and some are new. They have done some research and it appears that there are three addresses that have some issues. It seems the problems are more with deliveries but do not see that there's been any problem with emergency services.

Maren Brucker – Walnut Lane issue. Stated they would really appreciate not having to change their addresses. It can be very expensive to change all their legal documents like trusts, etc. Would need to hire a lawyer to take care of that.

Scott Burge – stated he was present to listen regarding the Zoning Code change for the Agronomic Research facility.

Elmer Zuehls – Walnut Lane issue. Mr. Zuehls stated they are against the name change. The biggest reason is they are North Walnut Lane, Mahomet and the other is South Walnut Street. There is a difference in the name of the street and one is North and the other is South.

## **VI. Communications**

Chris Stohr would like for ELUC to discuss Environmental topics that could be funded through ARPA funds. Mr. Thorsland said there is a possibility to have discussion in September prior to the ELUC meeting and if more discussion is needed have an additional meeting after that.

## **VII. New Business: For Information Only**

A. Mahomet Aquifer Council Update – Ms. Monte gave an update on the status of Senate Bill 2515, which passed both house of the Illinois General Assembly this May and was sent to the Governor on June 17, 2021. Senate Bill 2515 creates the Mahomet Aquifer Council. In two to three months the Governor will be able to appoint a 25-person Council, to include seven members to represent local government bodies located over the Mahomet Aquifer. Responsibilities of the Council are to: 1.) review, evaluate and make recommendations regarding State laws, regulations and procedures that relate to the Mahomet Aquifer; 2.) review, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the State's efforts to implement this Act that relate to the quality of the Mahomet Aquifer; 3.) review, evaluate and make recommendations regarding current and potential contamination threats to the water quality of the Mahomet Aquifer; and 4.) make recommendations relating to actions that might be taken to ensure the long-term protection of the Mahomet Aquifer.

Mr. Stohr suggested that Planning and Zoning should inquire about how to request representation for Champaign County on the Mahomet Aquifer Council so the County Board might seek to have a representative on that Council. Mr. Patterson asked if the local government officials need to be elected officials or if that could be staff. Ms. Monte stated that it was not clear if appointed Council represented could be elected or staff. With only seven local government representative spots for the 15 counties and all the municipalities that are located over the Aquifer, obtaining a spot on the Council may be highly competitive. The County Board may want to take a regional approach with other local government entities to collaborate on representation on this Council.

## **VIII. New Business: Items to be Approved by ELUC**

A. Recreation & Entertainment License: Fisher Community Fair, 226 E. Sangamon Avenue, Fisher for July 6 – July 10, 2021

**Motion** by Mr. Esry and seconded by Ms. King to approve the Recreation & Entertainment License for the Fisher Community Fair.

Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IX. New Business: Items to Receive & Place on File by ELUC Committee to Allow a 30-Day Review Period**

- A. Zoning Case 008-AT-21: Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance by Amending Section 5.2 by adding "Agronomic Research and Training Facility" as a Special Use Permit in the AG-1 Agriculture and AG-2 Agriculture Zoning Districts.

**Motion** by Mr. Stohr and seconded by Mr. Esry to place on file for a 30-day review period.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

There was brief discussion on this item. A straw poll was taken, and the committee was in favor of this proposed ordinance change. This will be on the August agenda.

**X. New Business: Items to be Recommended to the County Board**

- A. Proposed Change of Street Name for Walnut Lane

Mr. Thorsland began discussion on this issue; feels like we received good feedback from the residents and would like to see more discussion on this with staff, the village, and residents in the unincorporated parts. He would like to know more and have discussion with the village as they brought this up. It appears that the North of Walnut was dropped a few years ago. When Mr. Hall was asked about this, he said that Walnut Lane was never officially named North Walnut Lane. Also, Mahomet has done away with the South designation and the street in the village is just Walnut Street. He said Walnut Lane has only ever been Walnut Lane although when you go into the old tax records there was a North appended to it and no one is sure how that happened.

Mr. Thorsland proposed possibly officially naming it North Walnut Lane. GIS staff came up with a proposed list of names. Mr. Hall said from the GIS staff perspective adding North would make it more out of conformance with the standards than just Walnut Lane. METCAD has been consulted and they are on board with Hazelnut Lane, but they are not with keeping it Walnut Lane. Mr. Patterson asked why the village brought this up. Mr. Hall said there were a number of missed deliveries this past year but there have not been any issues with emergency services.

Ms. King asked how many people would be affected if Walnut St. was asked to change its name. Mr. Hall stated that there are more than twice as many residential lots on Walnut St. in Mahomet. Walnut Street existed before Walnut Lane. Mr. Esry asked if the reason Walnut Lane is out of compliance is because it was platted later. This is correct. The reason it is out of compliance is that there are two streets with the same primary name of Walnut. The fact that one is a Street and one a Lane does not make it conform. Mr. Esry stated that although he would hate to make the people of Walnut Lane change their address, it would make sense to do so as it platted last. Upon checking phone apps, committee members could get options for both North Walnut Lane and South Walnut Street.

Ms. Fortado asked for the rules to be suspended so that a member of the public could speak.

Maren Brucker stated they were forced to change to North Walnut Lane when the 9-1-1 system came in. All the houses numbers were originally single digit. They were originally 2 Walnut Lane and were eventually forced, by the Post Office, to change it to 914 North Walnut Lane. They were never North Walnut Lane before that. Up until that system came in, they were single digit house numbers and just Walnut Lane. The question was asked if they knew when that change happened. She did not have an exact date, but it was when 9-1-1 addresses came into being. Cheryl Burr said she understands trying to do away with the N/S designations, but there are a lot of other issues that need to be addressed with

Mahomet addresses. Mr. Zuehls said that the street numbering system they are at 916 N. Walnut Lane and there is a 916 S. Walnut St. in Mahomet. 916 S Walnut in Mahomet is the house that faces Division Street. He also thought their numbering system was supposed to align with the county road system.

Mr. Thorsland asked if there was any documentation regarding the 9-1-1 change and when that came through. Mr. Esry asked if Mr. Hall remembered when the 9-1-1 addresses came in. He believed it was the mid- '90's. Mr. Esry said if they were made to change to North Walnut at that time, is it recorded somewhere? Thinks we need to investigate this some more. Mr. Thorsland asked the staff to check into when METCAD asked for the number change and if it was at that time that the North was added. Also, have the residents been shown the GIS suggested alternate names? Can we send that to the residents and have them rank their choices?

Ms. Fortado understands that it's hard to change a long-standing street name. She is mostly concerned about emergency services and safety. She is OK with waiting and getting answers. Mr. Thorsland wants to be as fair as possible to the residents of Walnut Lane. If we have to make a change, we want as much input from them as possible. He asked if METCAD had made official input about this. Mr. Hall said at the staff level, the name change was discussed. METCAD is there for public safety and they feel it doesn't match the standards and they'll always be on the side of public safety.

**Motion** by Mr. Patterson and second by Ms. King to continue this item until the August meeting.

Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to continue until August.

**XI. Other Business**

- A. Monthly Reports
  - i. April 2021

The April report was received and placed on file. Mr. Stohr asked about the number of complaints that were open at the end of April. Mr. Hall said there is one person that works on this full time. The backlog goes back to 2004 when we went through four directors in five years. Ms. Fortado asked if a short-time staff person would help to get rid of the backlog. They have tried that with interns, but you still need a full-time staff person to vet them. A full-time staff person working for a short or limited time might be an option.

**XII. Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's Report.

**XIII. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda**

None

**XIV. Adjournment**

Mr. Thorsland adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

*Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*