

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

OLYMPIAN-LINCOLN SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lorraine Cowart, Greg Knott, Ralph Langenheim, Alan Nudo, C. Pius Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Kat Bork (Administrative Assistant), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Alan Kurtz (County Board Member), Brendan McGinty (County Board Member)

CALL TO ORDER

Weibel called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Knott, Langenheim, Nudo, and Weibel were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Knott to approve the agenda; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Laura Huth of Do Good Consulting was present to represent her clients. She stated her clients wanted to be sure the area residents are included in the committee's process as more than just members of the public. She looked forward to participating in future meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

MOTION by Knott to elect Weibel as the Chair; seconded by Nudo. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

STATEMENT/DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE TASK

Knott described that he and Weibel had spoken about this agenda item. Knott's thoughts were the committee existed to cause dialogue between interested parties; including landowners, governmental bodies, etc., in order to give some direction to Blue so he can negotiate with other bodies. Langenheim concurred with the committee members first sitting down amongst themselves and deciding what might be acceptable as a solution. He viewed the committee's purpose as trying to help responsible agencies come to an agreement about what should be done in the Olympian Drive-Lincoln Avenue construction project. Knott suggested the committee could consider items such as the 1997 study, the ten to twelve possible project designs, impact on landowners, and the other parameters that were considered in the original decision. The committee continued to discuss its purpose.

Cowart entered the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Kurtz encouraged looking into other options and suggested an independent engineering study may be needed. He thought the 1997 plans offered less costly options than the current project. Knott asked if it would be possible to outline the major steps needed to get State approval and what other options would mean in terms of process. McGinty remarked that a lot of people are looking for verification that there is need for any road construction project undertaken at this point and why a particular option, such as the sweeping S option, is selected instead of others. It would be very important to work with landowners and it might make sense to refresh the 1997 study. He encouraged the committee to make this an inclusive process and consider components other than engineering.

Langenheim pointed out the open houses about the Olympian Drive and Lincoln Avenue project provided statistics and photographs showing the growth and expansion on the community's north side. He asked Blue to supply the committee with those printouts. Blue explained the document showing growth over time was prepared by a Google flyover consultant. It is a moving document that cannot be printed, but can be viewed on the project's website. Langenheim felt it was imperative for members to drive around all of the roads being discussed to obtain a personal impression of the combination of urbanization and farmland. He suggested the committee may take a field trip. Busey said the committee could set up a County Board tour if they wanted to. This was done for the County facilities.

Nudo stated one of the committee's tasks should be to meet with municipalities. He wanted a mechanism put in place for working with intergovernmental bodies and reporting on any progress in the future. Langenheim understood CUUATS had this project on the books for years and CUUATS plans are reviewed every five years. He did not consider it a fossilized plan because it is reviewed by the planners.

Knott asked what Blue needed from the committee in terms of guidance or thoughts. Blue recommended the committee be brought up-to-date on the project and review the studies as group in order to understand how the project reached the place it is now. He could put this together for the committee. Langenheim agreed that should be the first step. McGinty suggested Blue summarize the process with highlights that impact the status of the current project. Blue said that would be his proposal. Weibel asked that Blue provide what he reasonably could in hard copy. Noting a lot of material was already available on the website, McGinty suggested that Blue provide links to certain

documents for the committee to review before the next meeting. He was looking for the pertinent information to this discussion, not a reopening of the entire plan. Langenheim wanted to include the extension to 45 and felt ignoring it would be a mistake. Nudo urged the committee to avoid reopening old wounds. The County Board knows where it is going with other municipalities and should focus on what they can get done at this time. He indicated all the municipalities were in favor of going to Lincoln Avenue.

Kurtz asked why a program should be considered when there is not money available to support it. He was in favor of the County Board looking at Olympian and Apollo because it is the area that can be financed. Kurtz stated the engineering study could be afforded if Urbana released the \$5 million. Langenheim recalled that Blue raised the issue of the State not approving reallocation of funds at a previous meeting. Blue explained his comments concerned the bridge.

Nudo asked if the study Blue would bring to the committee differed from the traffic projections presented by Rita Black the previous Committee of the Whole meeting. He questioned the projections. Blue confirmed he possessed a copy of Black's PowerPoint presentation from that meeting and could share it with the committee. Black did new projections based on a model CUUATS uses today. Blue would need another party to explain the model to the committee.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The committee discussed when to hold future meetings and how many times to meet before the end of the current term. Blue asked that the meetings be held in the Highway Building. The committee agreed to meet on October 19th at 11:30 a.m. and October 28th at 11:30 a.m. Weibel directed members to block out two hours for meetings to allow for discussion.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Weibel stated the agenda for the next meeting would include items: 1. Review of Past Studies (with materials from Blue) and 2. Traffic Counts and Modeling for Future.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Weibel adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Assistant