

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, June 29, 2011**

**Brookens Administrative Center, Jennifer K. Putman Meeting Room  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

4:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Ammons, Tom Betz, Brendan McGinty (Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alan Nudo, Jonathan Schroeder

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deb Busey (County Administrator)

**CALL TO ORDER**

McGinty called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Ammons, Betz, and McGinty were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Betz to approve the agenda; seconded by Ammons. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Ammons to approve the Strategic Planning Committee June 16, 2011 minutes; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Dennis Roberts, an Urbana City Council member, and Ilona Matkovszki, an Urbana Public Arts Commission member, said they were here to make a presentation and seek some advice from the County. Roberts stated the Urbana City Council created the Joseph W. Royer Arts & Architectural District on December 15, 2007. This district has not been well publicized, but it has 19 house/buildings designed by Joseph Royer in the downtown Urbana area. The intent of this district was to bring the focus of tourists and citizens to the city and the importance of Royer's work. A book by Brian Adams has been published by the *News-Gazette* about Royer's life. Roberts and Matkovszki have also published a book on the history of Urbana. Royer's most important design was the Champaign County Courthouse. Roberts and Matkovszki wanted to bring

more notice to the Royer-designed buildings in Urbana and have requested the City of Urbana's help with funding the placement of plaques and signs at the Royer locations. Matkovszki would like to place a plaque at the Champaign County Courthouse on or around August 25, 2011 to start the plaque project. They were here to propose the idea to the County Board for its permission and support. Roberts distributed some information about their proposal. They are trying to obtain construction costs estimates for the plaques. Roberts and Matkovszki offered to answer any questions.

Betz assumed they were not asking the County to come up with any money for the plaques. Roberts said he was open to whatever is possible. The Arts Commission has some money for plaques. They are really looking for permission to place a plaque or marker on County property. They would appreciate it if the County can assist them with some money for the plaque. McGinty asked about the proper procedure in making such a request. Busey and Betz agreed the request would need to be sent to the Facilities Deputy Chair to be included on a meeting agenda. The next meeting with Facilities will be on August 2, 2011 followed by the County Board meeting on August 18, 2011, unless the Board wanted to address this at the July 21<sup>st</sup> full Board meeting. Roberts said he would appreciate this request being addressed sooner rather than later.

Matkovszki said their primary interest was in placing a plaque on or in front of the old section of the Courthouse that Royer designed. Betz would want to converse with the Sheriff to determine if he had any objections due to safety issues before making any determination. Betz could not imagine the County Board objecting to a tasteful sign, but did not think the Board would allocate any money for the plaque due to budget constraints.

Matkovszki said they also wanted a room or two to display a temporary exhibit in association with the dedication of the plaques in August. Roberts imagined this could be placed in the Lincoln Exhibit anteroom where the photos of Lincoln statues are now displayed. Busey explained that is a temporary display in the area outside the Jury Assembly Room. She recommended Roberts and Matkovszki put together a comprehensive request to present to the Board. It was not in this committee purview to grant such a request. Betz did not object to including this request on the July 21<sup>st</sup> agenda. Roberts and Matkovszki agreed to get in contact with Busey about their request for the Board agenda. Busey stated that Sheriff Walsh is responsible for the Courthouse property and recommended Roberts and Matkovszki meet with him first.

## **CONTINUING REVIEW OF IDEAS & INITIATIVES**

The committee continued to proceed in its review of ideas and initiatives. McGinty suggested rolling the first three ideas into one about a comprehensive plan. The committee discussed the definition and development of a comprehensive plan, including challenges faced in the past with zoning revisions. Betz felt the situation was impassible in regards implementing a comprehensive plan in this political climate. Ammons wanted to keep the comprehensive plan goal as an ideal. The committee discussed the uniqueness of Champaign County and how this would impact the development of a comprehensive plan. Betz suggested the County might need to hire an outside entity to draft a comprehensive zoning ordinance that is then voted on by the County Board because the process within the County is so fragmented and susceptible to various personalities and interests which clash. The investments in the Land Resources Management Plan were discussed.

The committee agreed to consolidate the first several ideas into “Document and adopt a process for movement from vision/LRMP to development and adoption of a comprehensive plan.”

Regarding the idea to write a county building code, the committee noted a building code would be coming from the state within two years. Busey also questioned if the County had the jurisdictional authority to enforce anything beyond what the state mandates and offered to refer that question to legal counsel. The committee concurred with Busey.

Ammons wanted the committee to ask Patti Petrie to look into what she meant with her suggestions of a local food council and converting County campus land to a farm. These ideas could be included under the “sustainability – mainly towards “greening” goal. Busey said the first stop in considering converting part of the County East Campus to farmland would be the City of Urbana to see if the city would allow it. The committee discussed what the intention was in these suggestions. The committee agreed to delete the farming idea. The local food council idea was combined with the sustainability issue.

Betz noted Indiana and Michigan have abolished numerous drainage districts. He noted the attorneys who represent the drainage districts will be against any legislation consolidating drainage districts. Busey stated both cities are looking into storm water management right now. This would be an opportunity to talk about intergovernmental cooperation and community-wide solutions. The goal to “investigate intergovernmental agreements with municipalities to promote a complete design change to storm water management for this community” was agreed to by the committee.

The committee agreed with Betz’s suggestion to delete the idea about making the MTD into a county-wide system because there is a rural transit system. The committee agreed to end discussion at this time and resume at the next meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee agreed to hold its next meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

McGinty adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork  
Administrative Assistant