

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 6, 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), Alan Nudo, Jonathan Schroeder

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator)

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Ammons, Betz, McGinty, and Schroeder 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 29, 2011 minutes; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

CONTINUING REVIEW OF IDEAS & INITIATIVES

The committee continued its review of the proposed ideas and initiatives. McGinty thanked Busey for preparing a goldenrod sheet of all the reviewed ideas and a white sheet with the remaining seven proposals. Schroeder asked what the purpose was of a local food council mentioned in Idea 23. Ammons thought the submitted purpose was to provide ways for the County

Board to use local food in the community, such as joining with other entities. The idea was submitted by Patti Petrie and she was not present at the meeting when the idea was discussed. Ammons thought it was a good idea to keep this on the list and look at sustainability issues. McGinty said he was contacted by a group affiliated with local foods to talk about having a county-based local food council to help guide local food development and distribution. Idea 23 is a combination of several suggested initiatives. Schroeder was trying to determine the County government's function in local food production or distribution. Champaign County is not a home-rule community like Champaign or Urbana, so there is no fund to support these efforts. The committee was uncertain of Petrie's intent, but the group McGinty met with was not appealing for funding. The local food group was interested in county-wide endorsement of a board that group would set up. Six months ago, McGinty suggested the group put together a business plan proposal to present to the County Board under the Policy section of a Committee of the Whole meeting. He has not heard anything from the group in response. Schroeder felt the University of Illinois Extension Office would be a better entity to be involved in a local foods effort than County government. The committee continued to discuss the local food idea. Busey noted the County funds Extension Education with property tax revenue. Betz suggest adding "while working with Extension to include establishment of a local food council" to Idea 23. The committee agreed to the change.

Busey has submitted the question of what the County's abilities are to write a building code beyond what the state has mandated to legal counsel for review. She has not received a response from legal counsel. Betz noted the County is not a home-rule body and could not enact a code stronger than the state.

The committee was confused as to the intention of the second idea on the white sheet submitted by Patti Petrie. Betz stated the idea about minimizing sprawl and preserving agriculture lands has to do with the LRMP and zoning issues. This has been addressed in Idea 22. He did not see a likelihood of revenue sharing. Busey noted Idea 5 on the goldenrod sheet involves promoting intergovernmental cooperation as it becomes available on projects. The committee agreed to remove the second idea on the white sheet. The committee discussed soliciting feedback from the other County Board members on the strategic planning update.

Regarding the suggested idea about development and use of the Mahomet Aquifer was debated. There is intergovernmental interest in this issue. It was agreed to include the Mahomet Aquifer as an example of potential intergovernmental cooperation without the anticipated creation of a water district.

The fourth idea was determined to already be covered in Idea 10 on the goldenrod sheet. The committee added, "parenthetically, County employees and County contractors" to Idea 10.

McGinty felt the fifth suggestion was already being done by the Regional Planning Commission. Busey noted did not think the County statutorily could take up this suggestion. RPC has been designated as the entity that has the authority to use loan programs to increase economic development. It is done through federal programs. According to bond counsel, the County Board does not have the authority to give loans for economic development. RPC administers several loan programs. Anyone who would like to see more aggressive loan programs should contact the RPC

Commission. Pius Weibel, Lorraine Cowart, and Steve Moser are the County Board members who serve on the RPC Commission.

Ammons did not think the suggested idea of having a civilian policy review to give oversight to the Sheriff's Office was an easy issue for the county as it is in the cities. Busey noted the City Police Chiefs are not elected, as the Sheriff is. The County Board does not have any authority over the Sheriff other than approving the department's budget. The Sheriff could agree to consider the establishment of a citizens advisory committee to work with the Sheriff on jail issues. This could be useful if the County Board is going to construct a new jail. This idea could be included in Idea 21 on the goldenrod sheet.

The idea of continuing to work towards self-sufficiency at the Nursing Home was combined with Idea 14 on the goldenrod sheet.

Nudo entered the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

The committee summarized the work it had done for Nudo's benefit. The revised list of ideas and initiatives will be shared with the County Board for the members' feedback. Betz advised removing the column naming the originator. Busey spoke about aligning departments' goals to the County Board's Strategic Plan goals in the budget document. The committee discussed the necessary timing to include goals in the FY2012 budget document. The goals have to be decided before the ideas can be aligned with the goals. The County Board members would be asked to rank the ideas and initiatives from 1 to 5 to provide some idea of relative priorities.

Ammons exited the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

The committee discussed the possible response rate from the County Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee agreed to hold its next meeting on July 20th at 4:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

McGinty adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork

Administrative Assistant

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.