

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of December was held in the Stephenson County Board Room on the above date with Mr. Mikkelsen, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Mikkelsen, Mr. Parker, Mr. Newton, Mr. Koch and Mr. Graham. Absent were Ms. DeVine and Ms. S. Hooper. County Board Chairman Blum was also present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, November 3, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Koch.

Chairman Blum announced that Ms. Devine was in the hospital for diagnostic tests.

Mr. Mikkelsen delayed, until next month, further discussion of a First Source Hiring Agreement.

Chairman Blum distributed the NIDA Executive Director's report, dated November 11, 2008 and the proposed three-year goals and initiatives. The NIDA board is working on updating the by-laws. It appears that the County would have two representatives and one vote on the NIDA Executive Board. There was a discussion regarding the County's representation and vote, on the Executive Board, considering the County's financial contribution. Ms. Kneubuehl explained that the proposed Executive Board has nine members representing private enterprise and two representing Freeport and two representing the County. The County and Freeport would each have one vote. Ms. Kneubuehl implied that maintenance of NIDA's 501 (c) (3) status, under the IRC, required majority representation by private enterprise. She noted that projects in the City or County would still be controlled by the appropriate unit of government. The Soil and Water Conservation District wants input on agricultural development. NIDA would welcome non-members to serve on their various committees. Mr. Graham said that the County should have a voting status, equal to the percentage of its financial contribution. There was a discussion on how NIDA should be organized.

An article, "You Can't Cut Your Way to Prosperity", from the November 3, 2008 issue of *Economic Development Now*, was distributed.

Chairman Blum reported that the County has received the authorization letter from HUD on the \$147,000 grant for Mill Race Crossing. He noted that the engineering segment maps and specification books were available for review after the meeting.

Mr. Mikkelsen reported that the Enterprise Zone Committee recommended approval of an expansion of the Enterprise Zone for inclusion of the 5.3 acres for the Supportive Living Facility, at the intersection of Pearl City and Forrest Roads. The remainder of the requested expansion was rejected. A map of the site was distributed. There was a discussion of the City and County boundaries converging on the intersection. On a motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Koch, the Committee recommended adoption of the Resolution To Authorize an Amendment To Intergovernmental Agreement for the Operation of an Enterprise Zone and an Ordinance Amending the Boundaries of the Joint City of Freeport-County of Stephenson Certified Enterprise Zone. Ms. Kneubuehl said that she has been working to promote the Enterprise Zone benefits to the local school

districts. The Le-Win school board does not appear to be clear on the benefit and regulatory differences between TIF Districts and Enterprise Zones.

There was no Zoning report; the Zoning Board of Appeals is not scheduled to meet in December.

There were no reports on the activities of the Jane Addams Trail Commission or the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission.

In the absence of Ms. S. Hooper, there was no report on the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Mr. Mikkelsen said that the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board is meeting next week. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce's Rise and Shine breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday of this week, in the CVB facility.

Ms. Kneubuehl reported that the Blackhawk Hills EDD is surveying the local CEDS looking for projects "shovel ready" by July 1, 2009, as part of a Federal stimulus package. The next CEDS meeting is scheduled for December 17th.

Chairman Blum reported that there has been no movement on land acquisition for the Kellogg Grove Battlefield and Blackhawk Monument restoration project.

The County has received a Public Notice, from the Illinois EPA, regarding a proposed revision of the construction permit for Titan Tire's co-generation system.

Chairman Blum explained that applications for two additional Brownfield assessment grants, from the US EPA, have been submitted. The County has received a letter from DCEO recertifying the Local Workforce Investment Board, until October 2010. Chairman Blum reviewed the results of the Services Gap Survey conducted by the Northwest Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Forty percent of the wind turbines have been installed. The claims that the wind turbines are interfering with wireless transmissions have proven false. The problem was with the internet service provider.

Mr. Groves reported on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan presented tonight, to the Freeport City Council. Mr. Groves has been invited to participate in a wind development seminar in Peoria, on February 4th.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$1,364.43 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Newton.

The Committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Newton.

Approved: January 5, 2009

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, January 5, 2009 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room