

**Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan  
Implementation Committee Meeting  
NIRPC Auditorium  
April 18, 2012  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

Nancy Adams, Sylvia Planer, Alice Dahl, Ian Nicolini, Tim Morgan, Joan Crist, Jim Messup, AJ Monroe, Rich Herr, Bruce Bendull, Jim Pinkerton, Dale Engquist, Deb Braches, Michael Griffin, Kris Parker, Beth Jacobson, George Malis, Don Parker, Jennifer Kharchaf, Aj Bytnar, Cecile Petro, David Wright, Joe VanDyk, Keith Kirkpatrick, Geof Benson, Sandra Rodriguez, Craig Grabow, Sharron Liggins, Jim Ton, Christopher Meyers

**Guests**

Erin Aleman, Jonathan Burch, Denise Sulek

**Staff**

Gabrielle Biciunas, Belinda Petroskey, Kevin Garcia, La’Kisha Girder, Eman Ibrahim, Hubert Morgan, Tom Vander Woude, Mary Thorne

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson Nancy Adams called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Don Parker, the minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Role of Committee**

Chairperson Adams reviewed the committee purpose and the chart. We need to identify the key contact people for the municipalities in the three-county region.

**Presentation – Stewardship & Governance**

Belinda Petroskey discussed this section of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. The plan was developed through numerous outreach efforts and workshops to create the vision statement and goals, objectives and strategies used to achieve values and livability principals as defined in the plan. These include environmental justice, efficient and coordinated local government. NIRPC has a continuing role in the plan as well as some challenges shared with local governments. Partnerships will be developed, policy recommendations made, increased and continued public involvement and technical analysis performed for identification and evaluation purposes. Implementation to date includes the formation of the Local Government Assistance Committee to identify funding sources, grant writing and information sharing; planning coordination through such groups as Wingspread, Chicago Wilderness, the Land Use Committee and MS4. Environmental justice implementation efforts include outreach to

students, quarterly newsletter, the use of social media as an outreach tool, the formation of an Urban Core Communities Committee and an update to the 2007 Public Participation Plan.

### **Presentation – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning**

Erin Aleman updated the committee on the Implementation activities of their *Goto2040* Plan over the past year. Copies of the plan were available. Topics covered in the implementation included livable communities, management and conservation of water sources, energy and retrofitting, expansion and improvement of parks and open spaces, human capital, economic support, efficient governance and regional mobility. The suburban areas will be encouraged to develop better on land currently being utilized to discourage sprawl. An interactive tool is available at [twitter.com@metropolsechi.com](https://twitter.com/metropolsechi). Go to their website at [www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) for more information.

### **Implementation Matrix**

Eman Ibrahim discussed the matrix which includes goals, objectives and strategies as outlined in the 2040 CRP. Staff classified short, mid and long term recommendations. The letter sized report is the complete matrix. The legal sized report is a summary of the short term recommendations only. NIRPC, who will be doing the majority of the work, created two new programs in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Creating Livable Center (CLC) communities. This will identify boundaries of livable centers to be able to connect it to a new funding program. CLC will use Surface Transportation Program (STP), Transportation Enhancement (TE), and CMAQ funds to come up with a new 80/20 program to fund projects within livable centers along transit corridors. The first six months we will develop criteria and eligibility recommendations relating to transportation and transit-oriented development (TOD). Funding is pending along the South Shore and NICTD within Lake and Porter Counties. Michigan City is already doing a realignment of the current station area in LaPorte County. Data will be made available to the communities. The other recommendation is specifically for local governments for coordination. Updating your comprehensive plans will help. Look at the matrix and email Eman or Gabrielle with any recommendations.

### **Urban Core Subcommittee Report**

Hubert Morgan reported that the subcommittee originated through the regional plan for reinvestment of our urban core cities of Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and Michigan City. We are also working with the rural communities. We are coordinating with the Regional Development Authority as well as federal, state, regional and philanthropic organizations. A meeting was held on March 30 in Miller with a number of urban core stakeholders in attendance. The challenge is in coordination with other councils such as the Marquette Advisory Committee, Shoreline Development Commission, Gary and Region Investment Project, NWI Economic Development District. Sylvia Planer commented that we should get some of this information out to the groups in the urban core. George Malis added that giving people an avenue to share other success stories can be tweaked to apply to other communities and to educate them as to how the entire region benefits through reinvestment in the urban core. Meetings will be held in the communities. Recommendations from the other councils will be brought back to the Pathway committee.

### **Land Use Committee Report**

Eman Ibrahim said the retreat held last month to see what the committee can do for the plan and review what the committee has done over the last 2 1/2 years to see what was successful. The committee will have new roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the plan, doing most of the technical work, the Creative Living Centers funding and mapping livable centers, and presenting to the Pathway Committee.

### **Current Initiatives**

- ❖ The Public Participation Plan of 2007 is being updated to better interface with the public. Facebook and Twitter are being used as outreach tools. A task force will meet twice in person with two virtual meetings in between to develop the plan which we will use to reach out to the stakeholders.
- ❖ The draft brochure was created in the last two weeks. The committee was asked to review it and email Eman or Gabrielle with any changes. A video will also be produced to take out to the communities with some personalized tailoring for each community. It was suggested that the 2040 CRP should have its own domain that can be linked on Facebook and Twitter. In order to involve more people, personalization of the plan to each community will be a bridge to the communities and show how it will affect the region. We need to hear from the communities about what they want to do. The logo was discussed briefly. Consensus of the committee was that the logo should remain as is, so as not to confuse the public. Comments from the committee: NIRPC should map out who is doing what goal and then who we want to hear about. People who will see the brochure are not planners. We may need to lose some of the acronyms and present the plan simply. We need a simple road map so that we are not chasing funding that we don't need but rather funding that makes sense for our communities. While there is a need for core community revitalization as demonstrated in the various workshops, the other communities should not be overlooked. This will be a charge of the Land Use Committee. Some of the problems and solutions reached in the core communities can be applied to other communities to ensure their vitality.
- ❖ Hubert Morgan will be put on the July agenda for outreach. He is meeting with 5<sup>th</sup> graders on their civic responsibility and what they want to see 30 years down the road. We are meeting with 40 high school seniors in LaPorte as well as Leadership LaPorte and others. Friend Hubert Morgan and Nancy Adams on Facebook.

### **Schedule of Meetings – 2012**

A couple of dates have been changed. The next meeting will be held on July 12 and the following is October 11, both at 9:00 a.m.

### **Other Business**

- ❖ The Partners for Clean Air breakfast announcement is in the package. The breakfast will be held on Thursday April 26 at 8:00 a.m. The registration deadline is today.
- ❖ NIRPC received the award for Outstanding Plan by the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan.
- ❖ LakeShore Focus will host live audience shows in May, July and September focusing on race, lack of a public transit system and failing schools.
- ❖ Stewart House's Sandy Rodriguez announced the promotional development of urban farms in Gary as a revenue-generating proposition. Contact her for partnering information.

2040 CRP Implementation Committee Meeting  
April 18, 2012  
Minutes

Chairperson Adams thanked the committee, saying emails will be going out. She adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda Packet
- Implementation Matrix
- Short Term Goals Matrix
- Draft 2040 Plan Brochure

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at [mthorne@nirpc.org](mailto:mthorne@nirpc.org). Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.