

NIRPC Full Commission Meeting
NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
December 8, 2016
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Ton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present included Kyle Allen, Jr., Christopher Anderson, Jeannette Bapst, Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Christine Cid, Anthony Copeland, Will Farrellbegg, Tom Fath, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Michael Griffin, Richard Hardaway, Jack Jeralds, Justin Kiel, Cary Kirkham, Kathryn Kniola, Tom McDermott, Jr., Ron Meer, Roger Miller, Blair Milo, Diane Noll, Lori Reno, Rick Ryfa, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, Fred Siminski, Brian Snedecor, Joe Stahura, James Ton, and George Topoll.

Guests present included Jill Murr, Lyndsay Quist, Sanjay Patel, Bill McCall, David Wright, Tom Silich, and Val Gomez, Heather Ennis, James Nowacki, Don Oliphant, Tim Zorn and Andrew Steele.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Dave Hollenbeck, Angie Hayes, Kathy Luther, Eman Ibrahim, Gary Evers, Mitch Barloga, Gabrielle Biciunas, Scott Weber, James Winters, Stephen Sostaric, Sarah Geinosky and Mary Thorne.

New Appointment to the Commission

Dave Hollenbeck announced that the City of Lake Station appointed Christopher Anderson to the Commission.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kevin Breitzke and a second by Kyle Anderson, Jr., the minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Report of the Executive Director

Ty Warner announced that Lisa Todd is NIRPC's new procurement coordinator. He said that Pete Visclosky marked NIRPC's 50th Anniversary in the Congressional Record. Various displays are set up and a draft of NIRPC's 50 year history has been created. Commissioners were asked to describe one positive change in their community in the last 50 years at the end of the meeting. Mary Thorne celebrates her 10th anniversary of service.

Report of the Chair

Jim Ton announced the members of the Nominating Committee, Jim Ton, Michael Griffin and Diane Noll, will meet on December 21. Action is needed on changes to the Local Government Assistance Committee, adding "Connects urban core communities and small towns for areas of common concern" and the Outreach Committee, adding "devotes special attention to and consideration of environmental justice communities for participatory inclusion in the planning process." Brief

discussion followed. On a motion by Roger Miller and a second by Dave Shafer, the Commission voted to make the changes to the two committees. The committee preference sheets for the 2017 cycle will again go out and your participation is appreciated.

Finance & Personnel Committee

Diane Noll reported that the Finance & Personnel Committee met this morning and action is needed by the Commission on several items. Procurement recommendations for the replacement of four vehicles was approved on a motion by Diane Noll and a second by Kevin Breitzke. The 2017 budgets for general governmental funds reflects a decrease of 1% over the 2016 budget. Resolution 16-41, the adoption of the 2017 budget was adopted by the Commission on a motion by Bob Carnahan and a second by George Topoll. The Executive Director's Contract was adopted by the Commission on a motion by Tom McDermott and a second by Geof Benson.

Environmental Management Policy Committee

Geof Benson said the Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet on January 5, 2017 at 9 a.m. He also announced that the Society of Innovators awarded the Chanutte Prize for Team Innovation to the Calumet River Partners in Restoration Team which is showcased in the NIRPC lobby.

Technical Planning Committee

The Technical Planning Committee met on November 1st and December 6th since the last Commission meeting. Mitch Barloga gave a brief update of the Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan Update. The process has been delayed due to the receipt of several significant comments. The modifications will be made and another 30-day comment period will be held. The plan will be brought to the Commission for adoption at a later date.

Eman Ibrahim explained Resolution 16-34, Amendment No. 2 to the FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program for Road Safety Audits. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 16-34.

Mitch Barloga explained Resolution 16-35 containing emergency projects for inclusion into the Transportation Improvement Program, or B-list projects. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Bob Carnahan, the Commission voted to adopt of Resolution 16-35.

The Public Comment Report on the proposed amendment for the State Route 249 Bridge project in Burns Harbor was described by James Winters. No action was needed.

Scott Weber explained Resolution 16-36, the Congestion Management Process for the State Route 249 Bridge project in Burns Harbor. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 16-36.

James Winters explained Resolution 16-37, the Environmental Justice Analysis for the State Route 249 Bridge project in Burns Harbor. Michael Griffin made a motion to adopt, Kevin Breitzke

seconded the motion. Brief discussion followed. Tom McDermott asked about the use of an analysis by INDOT on the impacts of closing the Cline Avenue Bridge to the 30,000 who used it daily when INDOT decided not to replace it. James Winters responded that this process is used by NIRPC as a component of its 2040 Plan for projects in environmental justice areas and INDOT may have its own criteria. Lyndsay Quist said the bridge was probably funded with federal money and so an impact study was probably done. On a call for question, Commission voted to adopt Resolution 16-37.

Scott Weber explained Resolution 16-38, the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the State Route 249 Bridge project in Burns Harbor. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 16-38.

Mitch Barloga described Resolution 16-39, the third Amendment to the 2040 CRP Update Companion. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 16-39.

Gary Evers explained the projects in Resolution 16-40, Amendment No. 32 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement, noting that this was the most-amended TIP. The amendment went out for public comment and review by the Interagency Consultation Group and the TPC. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 16-40.

INDOT

Lyndsay Quist reported that preparations are underway for the winter weather. Answering Tom McDermott's earlier question, she said that INDOT's contracts go through NEPA with an environmental component.

Tom McDermott thanked the Indiana Toll road for installing a barrier next to the bike trail at Wolf Lake. The hawk signal crossing is the first in Hammond.

Public Comment

James Nowacki, Gary resident, offered congratulations on NIRPC's 50th anniversary and commented on crime statistics and the legalization of medical marijuana in Indiana.

Announcements

Robert Carnahan said a concert by a professional opera singer in Cedar Lake will benefit the Cedar Lake Food Pantry. Roger Miller commented on a very good program which aired on Sunday's 60 Minutes on the Golden Triangle economic development progress in Mississippi. Tom Silich commented on the Route 6 infrastructure needs. Eman Ibrahim announced a survey link for US 30/I-65 corridor study which will be on the website until December 18.

The Commissioners each described positive changes in their communities in the last 50 years.

Adjournment

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Kyle Allen, Jr., Jim Ton adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

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

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