

## Land Use Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Members & Visitors: Jeff Sheridan, AJ Monroe, Greg Stinson, George Malis, David Wright, Tom Vander Woude, Sergio Mendoza

NIRPC Staff: Eman Ibrahim, Gabrielle Biciunas, Ryan Bennett, Carolyn Brown

Call to Order by Chairman

Chairman Stinson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

Approval of the minutes of October 18, 2017

On motion by Greg Stinson, seconded by David Wright, the October 18, 2018 minutes were approved as presented.

### **Regional Land Use Planning – Eman Ibrahim**

Eman discussed plans to update data for 2040 Plan using 1990 to 2006 data. Data sources used were GIS, Engineering, and digitized data.

2050 Plan will be Parcel based because Polygon data did not consider all data, such as with of streets. We have new subdivisions to add to data and the Polygon data left out the older subdivisions. Polygon data will have a map and view city by city and town by town.

### **Parcel-Based/Aerial Photography Land Use Data Presentation – Ryan Bennett**

LaPorte and Lake counties have similar property taxes and Residential and commercial districts of land use. Some subdivisions were not included in the old data system. This new Parcel-Based data included the older subdivisions, which is more accurate.

### **Regional Food System Council – Gabrielle Biciunas**

Robust Food Systems allows people to gather and network and connect with regions to give information regarding food farms. It allows communities to take over to address food access.

A Food Expo is scheduled for March for networking. People want more outreach. Cities included are Gary, Hammond, Laporte, Michigan City and Valparaiso.

A Farm Hop is scheduled for September to allow the public to visit farms to innovate and create different ideas. Three fourths of farms are sustainable. These plans will help start-up farms.

February of 2018 there will be a (1) Just Food Seminar with a Locally sourced lunch, (2) Community Vision – shop future of food (3) Funding sources in future for food farming.

Visitors Bureau will focus on Agritourism this year. The State Model will assist four food councils with start-up and lead charge with statewide network of food councils. The USDA data will be used.

### **First BRT system in NWI/Broadway Corridor Presentation – David Wright**

Livable Broadway with regional goals aligned with inclusion of willing partners creating opportunity.

Comprehension Plan Approach with INDOT, including Gary, Merrillville, Crown Point and Hobart. Plan from Gary to Merrillville include rapid bus service (20 minutes) with Bypass Lanes, Crosswalks, ADA Compliance and Bus Shelters. Plans include and Broadway Express Service with limited stops, increased speed, bypass lanes, bike facilities and transit stations, with art and branding included in several locations. A study was done in Merrillville for feeder services. Buses worked with Farmers' Market to do outreach, using buses.

### **Communities Updates:**

Sergio Mendoza - Hobart is hosting on January 24 2018 a public meeting at 6:30 pm at the Police Sub-Station to reflect investments on 64 Avenue. Hobart will expand transit services as needed.

Jeff Sheridan - Town of Lowell has two improvements for downtown, one includes a Master Plan for Liberty Parks.

Tom Vander Woude – Town of Munster to rewrite a Zoning Ordinance. Munster will also update a Parks' Master Plan with consultants out of Wheaton, Illinois.

### **Announcements**

Eman would like a better attendance for future meetings.

Next Meeting is March 21, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.