

LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING
NIRPC Dune Room
September 5, 2018
Minutes

Members & Visitors: Greg Stinson, George Topoll, George Malis, La’Kisha Girder, Nick Bellar, Tom VanderWoude, Bushra Rehman, Sergio Mendoza.

NIRPC Staff: Eman Ibrahim, Trey Wadsworth, Mitch Barloga, Scott Weber, Oscar Castillo, Mary Thorne

Greg Stinson called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

On motion by George Malis and a second by La’Kisha Girder, the minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting were approved.

Scott Weber presented on Performance Based Planning (PbP) Framework for the 2050 Plan. The framework will break down how NIRPC will go beyond federal requirements using the 16 critical paths as outlined in the 2050 Plan matrix to achieve Northwest Indiana’s vision. The Economy and Place plan focus area as it relates to the vision statements was examined at length for the committee. Staff will be looking at data metrics and measures, and baseline conditions to achieve increased or decreased performance targets by 2035 and 2050. Feedback from the committee included how to accomplish this without raising taxes and increasing home value; adding mixed use to create affordability within the downtown areas; the use of CNT index; use of region population figures, comparing our region to the rest of the state and country; the use of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for quality of life and health; and flooding data.

Mitch Barloga presented on Programmatic Investment Approach for the 2050 Plan and 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This enhanced approach will identify investment programs, evaluate the programs and size funding to each program based on regional priority, evaluate projects within all programs and then program the highest scored projects with available funding per program. The new approach is program specific instead of funding specific. While the usual approach is more straightforward, the enhanced approach will better utilize the flexibility provided by some funding sources. Benefits will be easier to quantify and demonstrate performance. The best scored projects will come from regionally significant programs. Examples of what the practice might look like were shown and the scoring process for the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was examined. Feedback was solicited from the committee. Concerns included not having much input for the Land Use Committee; most of Hobart’s interests would be under the Transit Committee; the Complete Streets policy; specificity of project types; the CLC program is missing (it might be a filter for criteria); the planning grant program; new roadway construction; determining main project focus; some categories have very few project types; equity between urban and suburban; environmental justice; planning should be a separate category. The urban core revitalization is not happening. Eman Ibrahim is working on strategies for short and long-term issues.

Communities Update – The new bike maps are now available and attending communities were encouraged to take some with them.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 10 a.m.

Hearing no other business, Greg Stinson adjourned the meeting at noon.