



CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

CREATING THE PLAN

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368 (219) 763-6060

2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Steering Committee Meeting NIRPC Auditorium April 23, 2009 Minutes

Members

Don Abraham, Mike Aylesworth, Don Babcock, Joan Bliss, Lee Botts, Cassandra Cannon, Jan Dick, Beth Downes, Dale Engquist, Jerry Halperin, Rich Herr, Bryant Mitol, Pat Jackson, George Janiec, Jim Jessup, Earl Jones, Eric Kurtz, Sergio Mendoza, Christopher Meyers, Richard Morrisroe, Lou Martinez, Sandy O'Brien, George Malis, Charles Oberlie, Jill Ritchie, Carolyn Saxton, Mary Stewart-Pellegrini, Daniel Suson, Ellen Szarleta, Debbie Thomas, Mary Jane Thomas, Kathy Chroback, Bob Thompson, Garry Traynham, Olga Velazquez, Joe Wszolek

Guests

Mark Reshkin, Shana Alford, Cecile Petro, Quadeer Mohammed, Jeff Ban

Consultants

Daniel Clark

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne, Eman Ibrahim, Lauren Rhein, Tom Vander Woude, Belinda Petroskey, Ryan Hicks, Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown

Welcome & Minutes

Mayor Oberlie chaired, calling the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with self-introductions. On a motion by Don Babcock and a second by Mike Aylesworth, the minutes of March 26 stood approved as presented.

Outreach Subcommittee

The committee met to discuss bringing in groups and demographics which were not part of the December 6 Forum event. NIRPC staff will present to grass roots groups on what NIRPC is and what a comprehensive plan is and the importance of participation in the goal setting.

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Work will be done with other organizations to achieve participation in the work groups, two in Lake County, one in LaPorte County and two in Porter County, beginning and ending at NIRPC. The sub-committee will work with the target demographic and grass root organizations. The Steering Committee can assist in identifying contact information for those groups to reach out to as many people as possible. A list of dates and times was presented to the Steering Committee. The Outreach Subcommittee will meet immediately after the steering committee meeting and is looking for help in identifying various church groups, diocesan groups and other grass roots groups. The segments missing from the December event must be identified. Over 500 people attended the December forum and many are still interested in participating. NIRPC is striving to be as accessible and transparent as possible. A core group of 30 to 50 will be expected to attend each of the five work shops as a cumulative process and they will be meetings open to the public. Staff will do educational sessions in targeting areas where participation fell short, particularly low income, minority and young adults. Venues at IUN and Genesis Center were suggested; NIRPC does not have a budget for venue costs. It was suggested to contact the Mayor of Gary as well as contact Debbie Thomas at IUN. Tentative dates and locations for the education sessions were discussed and the steering committee will be notified of final dates and locations for the education sessions.

Goal Setting Workgroup Update

Daniel Clark referred to the proposed work plan for the workgroup. A core group is needed to attend each session. People will review the Forum results as well as other resource materials, such as previous planning work. Each successive session will have a short period to debrief on the previous session. Session 2 will deal with a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) identified at the December forum. Session 3 will begin to generate the goal ideas. At that time, meetings will have taken place in each of the three counties. Session 4 will further those goals and consist of breakout groups. Session 5 will develop goals and look for any overlaps with assistance from the staff. There is a time constraint, but NIRPC's goal is to be as accessible and transparent as possible as we continue to go forward with the plan. A newsletter is being created to help keep people stay on the same page and be informed. One challenge is to emphasize the importance of continued involvement throughout this complex process. Key people can be brought in as local hosts to each session to explain the results of the previous session which will help accomplish that.

The next step in the process will be the four sub-regional cluster workshops in late summer or early fall to review the goals as they were developed and identified to give further review and feedback and help generate ideas for the next steps.

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Planning Context “Punch List”

Steve Strains presented a synopsis of the extensive work previously done by NIRPC staff in data collection and analysis, SWOT issues already identified through public participation at the December 6 event, identified the plans already available as resource materials and identified the federal and state requirements to be followed in remaining SAFETEA-LU compliant (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), including the upcoming planning certification review on May 11 to 13. Two public comment meetings will be held, the first May 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at NIRPC and the second on May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Purdue Calumet Conference Center in Hammond. Brief discussion followed regarding air quality requirements. An Economic Development Committee meeting will be held Friday, April 24 at 9:00 a.m.

Northwest Indiana Demographic Change

Lauren Rhein gave a presentation on the region demographics. Some highlights:

- The 2008 population estimate is 766,000 regionally, a 3.4% increase over 2000 or 25,400 people.
- Race and Hispanic Origin region population increased by 2.6% from 2000-2007
- The population of northwest Indiana increased in 22 cities and towns by 31,006 in the region, with the Town of Winfield having the highest growth rate at 83.2%
- The population declined in 19 cities and towns by 19,459 with 84% of the decrease represented in Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Michigan City and Griffith.
- Regional growth in unincorporated areas increased 6.5%
- Median age in the region increased from 37.3 years in 2000 to 37.7 in 2008
- There were 33,148 residential housing unit permits issued at a value of over \$5 billion issued between 2000 and 2008
- 28% of the total housing permits issued in the region were in unincorporated areas
- Maximum value of permits was in 2005, at approximately \$5 million for the Region
- Go to www.census.gov for federal information and www.censusindiana.edu for state information.

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Other Business

Lee Botts informed the group about a stakeholders committee being formed to study the National Park as a resource. Contact the Save the Dunes Council for more information.

The Congestion Management Committee is meeting on May 1 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on May 28 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Handouts provided:

- Agenda
- March 26th Meeting Minutes
- March 26th Meeting Summary
- Proposed Workplan for Goal Setting Workgroup
- NIRPC Staff "Punch List"
- List of Members

Audio tapes of this meeting are filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to schedule a time to hear them.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Thorne
Planning Secretary
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
April 29, 2009