

**MINUTES
CITY OF DUBUQUE LONG RANGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION**

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

Commissioners Present: Amy Eudaley, Beth McGrath, Michael Rabagia, and Mark Ward.

Commissioners Excused: Cliff Conrad, Tyler Stoffel

Commissioners Unexcused: None.

Staff Members Present: Wally Wernimont and Jason Duba.

Commissioner Ward volunteered to chair the meeting, as the Commission was without a Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson was absent.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ward at 5:30 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

Oaths of Office were administered for new Commissioner Michael Rabagia and renewing Commissioner Mark Ward. The Commissioners welcomed Rabagia.

MINUTES: Motion by Eudaley, seconded by Rabagia, to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2023 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission meeting as submitted. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Eudaley, Rabagia, and Ward; Nay – None; Abstain – McGrath.

ACTION ITEM

- New Urban Renewal Area: EMRI Urban Renewal Area

Ian Hatch, Assistant Economic Development Director, presented the Urban Renewal Plan for the EMRI Urban Renewal Area. He reviewed the memo included in the packet, including the location on Radford Road and the surrounding area, proposed 48-unit affordable apartment complex, planned improvements, impact, City Council review, and relationship to the Imagine Dubuque Comprehensive Plan, including:

- Promote mixed-use development
- Adopt and implement a mix of financial incentives/policies for creation of Housing Choice Voucher units throughout the community

- Work with property owners and developers to encourage and create walkable, mixed-use developments in locations identified on the Future Land Use Map
- Foster the development of new and additional housing products in suitable locations throughout the City

Hatch recommended that the Commission recommend the urban renewal plan to City Council for their approval.

Commissioner Eudaley asked if there was public transit service on Radford Road. Duba showed a map of the Jule transit system, which does not include service to this part of Radford Road. Eudaley pointed out that with the growing residential population here, it could be good to consider it.

Wernimont stated that the property has been rezoned following recommendation by the Zoning Advisory Commission and approval by the City Council.

Commissioner Rabagia asked if there were any plans for a mid-block pedestrian crossing so students and others wouldn't have to go to Radford Court to the traffic signal. There was also discussion of the intersection of Radford Road and Saratoga Road as a crossing for students. Wernimont pointed out the challenges of this street with its curve and hills. Rabagia noted the speed limit here is 35 miles per hour.

Wernimont noted that the developer held a neighborhood meeting, but few people showed up, and no objections were expressed.

Wernimont stated that the city is short on housing, as are Iowa and the nation, and that affordable housing is even more important. He noted that the city is getting affordable housing projects spread throughout the community, and there's more of mix of income levels with this project.

Motion by Rabagia, seconded by McGrath, to recommend the EMRI Urban Renewal Area for approval to City Council. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Eudaley, McGrath, Rabagia, and Ward; Nay – None.

ELECTIONS

Commissioner Eudaley asked if elections could be held every two years, given that the Commission meets infrequently. Wernimont stated that we could check with the City Attorney's office.

There was discussion about the roles of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and their role in leading the meetings.

Motion by Rabagia, seconded by McGrath, to elect Rabagia as Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Advisory Commission. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Eudaley, McGrath, Rabagia, and Ward; Nay – None.

Motion by Rabagia, seconded by Eudaley, to elect McGrath as Vice Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Advisory Commission. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Eudaley, McGrath, Rabagia, and Ward; Nay – None.

ITEMS FROM PUBLIC: Duba introduced Zach Barry, who has applied to serve on the Long Range Planning Advisory Commission.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION: None.

ITEMS FROM STAFF: Duba reviewed the current status of Imagine Dubuque recommendations. He stated that the AchieveIt system sent out an update request to the Coordinators on October 1, and they have been updating the progress. He explained that the Plan is largely On Track with a few Off Track or Not Started.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Eudaley, seconded by Rabagia, to adjourn the October 18, 2023 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Eudaley, McGrath, Rabagia, and Ward; Nay – None.
The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wally Wernimont, Planning Services Director

February 22, 2024

Adopted