



Approved

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

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

City Council Chamber, Historic Federal Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Jim Prochaska; Commissioners Craig Beytien, John Pregler, Richard Van Iten, Alan Vincent, and Charles Winterwood.

Commissioners Excused: Commissioner Chad Darter.

Staff Members Present: Laura Carstens and David Johnson.

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

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE: Staff presented an Affidavit of Compliance verifying that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Iowa Open Meetings Law.

MINUTES: Motion by Van Iten, seconded by Beytien, to approve the minutes of February 20, 2013, as submitted. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Vincent, Prochaska, Beytien, Van Iten, Pregler and Winterwood; Nay - None.

ACTION ITEMS

Review 2008 Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives for Progress Report: Staff Member Carstens reviewed the outline for the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan Progress Report. She explained the purpose of the report is to gather information and determine the progress on existing goals and objectives in the Comprehensive Plan from City departments. The Commission noted it will be important to understand which goals and objectives have been accomplished or are in progress prior to initiating the Comprehensive Plan update process.

Commissioners recommended adding an opportunity to indicate any issues or recommended changes to the goals and objectives as well as projects that are dependent on other projects.

Staff Member Carstens requested the Commission develop a vision for the Community Engagement Process.

The Commission discussed their vision and expectation for the engagement process to be an open and inclusive process. The Commission suggested greater utilization of social media and engaging people at large venues that draw a range of people.

Review 2013 Dubuque County Regional Smart Plan Goals: Staff Member Carstens explained there is a need to determine the relevancy of the adopted goals and objectives in the 2013 Dubuque County Smart Plan for the City of Dubuque. She explained the Smart Plan includes chapters based on the Iowa Smart Planning legislation which are not found in the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan, but will be in the next update.

Commissioners discussed adopted goals and objectives of the Dubuque County Smart Plan and Iowa Smart Planning legislation for inclusion in the updated Comprehensive Plan. They noted many City goals and objectives relate to the Smart Plan. The Commission suggested Planning Services staff make recommendations for Smart Plan goals that are pertinent to and should be considered for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan.

LIAISON/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Enterprise Zone Commission: Commissioner Van Iten reported on three projects. He reported the property at 2811 Jackson Street has been purchased and is slated for development of three sets of apartments which may eventually become condominiums. He noted the property at 407 & 409 Loras Boulevard has been purchased and is in the beginning stages of a rehabilitation project. He stated the property at 324-326 West Locust Street has also been purchased by the same property owners and is slated for rehabilitation.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION:

GDGC Presentation - Trends Impacting Economic Development: Dan McDonald, GDGC, 300 Main Street, Dubuque, reviewed trends impacting the economic development in the community. He noted that there is no one thing that an existing or new business needs or wants, but a common theme for all is needing people. He noted the #1 challenge facing Dubuque as well as many other communities in the nation is the availability of qualified people to meet employment demands and opportunities. Mr. McDonald reviewed Info Action, a snapshot of Dubuque's business community. He noted many of the positive attributes as well as workforce-related issues due to the aging of baby boomers and the recognized need for a workforce strategy. He explained workforce availability and solutions will define communities' abilities to grow their economies. He noted workforce issues are not just about having people available; it's having people educated in the right areas.

He explained Iowa's population gained only approximately 10,000 people in the last two years, but Dubuque was one of only four metro areas which grew. He noted more rural counties saw a decline in population. Mr. McDonald reviewed Iowa population trends, noting a projected decline in population of persons younger than 45 in the state of Iowa over the next 30 years. He reviewed Dubuque's population trends. He noted large employers like IBM and John Deere are creating a sustainable trend of newcomers in Dubuque.

The Commission asked Mr. McDonald if GDDC knows where people are moving from and what jobs they are taking. Mr. McDonald explained that data is not specifically available for Dubuque. He clarified that GDDC knows where there are openings and needs for local employers, and the work of local educational institutions to address courses and training to meet those needs. He further clarified that GDDC has some knowledge of where local graduates are finding work locally, such as recent graduates for new advanced manufacturing at NICC.

Mr. McDonald reviewed migration population trends for Dubuque County. He reviewed Dubuque County population trends, noting optimism in the positive projected growth through the year 2040. He also compared Dubuque County population trends to regional contiguous counties for 2010 through 2030.

Mr. McDonald explained the importance land policy has in impacting economic development and population growth. He noted how land was used in the Tech Park and Dubuque Industrial Center West for new and existing businesses. He explained a wise, forward thinking policy towards land use is essential to growing a local economy.

Mr. McDonald reviewed the five-year economic trends for job growth in Dubuque County, noting job growth exceeded the projections in 2012 with 58,300 jobs. He noted the unemployment rate is projected to drop over the next five years, which can impact workforce availability.

Mr. McDonald explained gross metro product and the five-year projection for Dubuque County, noting in 2012, it was \$4.8 billion. He then reviewed income growth percentage projections for 2012 through 2016, noting the impact of the aging workforce.

The Commission discussed the growing prospects for skilled trades and technical positions, and what schools and community colleges can and should be doing about these needs.

Mr. McDonald reiterated the importance of having the right number of people with the right skill set in your work force. The Commission discussed issues with primary and secondary education in preparing students for college as well as the work force, and providing options and alternatives to retain and grow the job base.

Mr. McDonald reviewed home values and building permits issued over the last five years, noting Dubuque's real estate market has weathered the recession fairly well and there are positive projections through 2016. The Commission thanked Mr. McDonald for his presentation.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

CPAT Final Report on Heritage Trail: Staff Member Carstens reviewed the CPAT process and final report on the Heritage Trail as an informational item.

Dubuque County Sustainability Public Meeting: Staff Member Carstens noted this is an informational meeting, and invited Commissioners to attend.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager

Adopted-