

**MINUTES**  
**McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting**  
WEDNESDAY, April 5, 2023, 4:00 P.M.  
115 E. Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois  
Room 404 and Virtual

**Members Present:**

John Burrill, Chairperson; Carl Teichman, Vice-Chair; Stan Gozur; Dr. Charles Irwin; Jim Fruin; Jennifer Langley\*

**Members Absent:**

Michael Pettorini; Bart Bittner; Tony Morstatter; Ron Lesser; Carl Olson

**Others Present:**

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Jennifer Sicks; Nancy Hirsch; Tania Barreto; Mark Adams; Francesca Lewis; Anthony Yamzon; Katie McShane\*

Others – Ryan Otto, Town of Normal; Tessa Ferraro, Town of Normal; Jacob Smith, Connect Transit\*; Phil Dick, McLean County Building & Zoning\*

\*Attended Virtually

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**1. Call To Order:**

Mr. Burrill called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted the absence of a quorum.

**2. Attendance:**

See above

**3. Public Comment:**

None

Mr. Burrill skipped items 4 & 5 due to no quorum at this time and went on to item 6.

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- A. Minutes of the February 1, 2023, Commission meeting
- B. Minutes of the March 1, 2023, Commission meeting
- C. Financial Reports
- D. MCRPC Staff Report

**5. Regular Agenda:**

- a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)

None

## 6. Items for Information or Discussion:

### a. Presentation: Town of Normal Public Works & Engineering Department (Ryan Otto)

Mr. Otto provided a brief introduction on himself and his time in McLean County working in both City Engineering and Town Engineering. He also provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Town of Normal Public Works and Engineering Department. [PowerPoint available for review at the office]

#### Q & A Followed The Presentation

1. Q: Does the Town of Normal share equipment with the City of Bloomington?  
A: Not a whole lot, the snow blower is shared sometimes.
2. Q: When you haul snow away where do you take it?  
A: Depends, last year it was taken to east Raab Road, a portion of the road that is not used in the winter. Leaves that are picked up are contracted with ISU Farm, the leaves are taken to Lexington then they are processed into compost.
3. Q: Is it a requirement to put the trash and recycle cans on the curb prior to them being picked up?  
A: They will be picked up either way. The main reason for that rule is to make sure no one hits them, and they stay out of the way of traffic.
4. Q: Is the recycle and electronic waste center for all of McLean County residents or just Town of Normal residents?  
A: It's for all McLean County residents and it's free of charge.
5. Q: Any discussions about trying to establish a contract with EAC or the State with a more permanent site for hazardous waste collection?  
A: Yes, there is interest in the community for that need.

Mr. Fruin arrived at 4:18PM. The Commission then had a quorum to vote on Items 4 & 5. Mr. Burrill called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Teichmen moved for approval; Mr. Gozur seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

### b. Regional Housing Initiative update (Tania Barreto)

A first draft of the "Preservation of LIHTC and other Income-Qualified Housing in McLean County" white paper will be presented at this month's Regional Housing Staff Committee meeting. Applications for the City and Town CDBG programs for FY2024 have been approved and are awaiting final approval from HUD.

MCRPC staff continue to be part of the housing coalition monthly meetings, cold weather meetings, housing technology meetings and Invest Health committee meetings. At the last

Affordable and Supportive Housing Committee, staff also organized a presentation by Mercy Housing Lakefront, a nonprofit housing provider from the Great Lakes Region.

c. Vision Zero/Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan Project update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai provided an update for the 3 grants MCRPC has been awarded related to transportation safety. Staff had a meeting with Federal Highways to work out the agreement for the SS4A grant. Staff are currently working on the final draft of the RFP for the Bike and Pedestrian Safety grant. The agreement for the SPR Traffic Safety grant has been approved.

d. Broadband Breakthrough update (Raymond Lai)

McLean County was one of five Counties in Illinois awarded the Broadband Breakthrough program to receive help with broadband infrastructure planning technical assistance. This program was funded by the United Soybean Board. The partners of the program meet weekly to learn and discuss broadband infrastructure. At the end of the 14-week program, staff and their partners hope to work on a plan regarding broadband services in rural and urban areas of the County with a focus on rural areas.

Mr. Burrill asked if this is primarily about the broadband infrastructure. Mr. Lai answered yes. Mr. Burrill also asked if there will be some attention to accessibility for broadband and affordability in urban areas. Mr. Lai answered that affordability and accessibility are both important parts of the planning. Mr. Lai also noted that over 1,200 responses were received to the internet quality survey conducted in March.

e. That Which May Arise

Mr. Burrill informed the Commission that the Executive Committee met for a session for Mr. Lai's annual review. He advised the minutes are on file.

Mr. Lai introduced a new MCRPC staff member, Nancy Hirsch, the new Community Planner. Ms. Hirsch briefly introduced herself.

**7. Adjournment:**

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gozur seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie McShane  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant