

AMENDED MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting
WEDNESDAY, August 6, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois
Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

Carl Teichman, Chairperson; Jim Fruin, Vice-Chairperson; Anne Barrow; Bart Bittner; John Burrill; Fred Grieder; Amy Roser; Katie Ruder; Mark Wylie

Members Absent:

Ron Lesser; Carl Olson

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Jennifer Sicks; Anthony Baumann; Thomas Valencia; Luke Talavera; Jake Crevoiserat; Alec Mudra; Katie McShane*

Others – Nora Harrison, Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council; Tessa Ferraro, Town of Normal*; Phil Dick, McLean County*; Ruth Burke, Community Member; Tricia Braid, Community Member

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

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

2. Attendance:

See above

Mr. Teichman introduced new Commissioner Anne Barrow. Ms. Barrow represents the Town of Normal. Ms. Barrow introduced herself to the Commission.

3. Public Comment:

Mr. Teichman read the MCRPC Public Comment Policy aloud and advised that Ms. Sicks will be the timekeeper for the community members who plan to provide public comments.

There were two members of the public present to provide comments:

1. Ruth Burke commented about the Draft Strategic Land Use Plan.
2. Tricia Braid commented about the Draft Strategic Land Use Plan.

Annette Noud was on the sign-up list to speak but was absent.

[The public comments may be reviewed on MCRPC's YouTube page.]

4. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the June 4, 2025, Commission meeting
2. Financial Reports
3. MCRPC Staff Report

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bittner moved for approval. Mr. Burrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

- a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)
None

6. Items for Information or Discussion:

- a. Presentation: Efforts Addressing the Childcare Issue (Nora Harrison, Senior Community Development Manager, BNEDC)

Ms. Harrison presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the Childcare issues in Bloomington-Normal and three surveys that are available to the public. [PowerPoint available at the office for review]

Mr. Fruin asked if they were tracking where the responses from the surveys were coming from. Ms. Harrison stated that no, they wanted the responses to be anonymous.

- b. Housing Coordinator – RISE Implementation grant update: (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai explained the RISE Implementation grant is a DCEO funded grant award. The grant will include budget for a Housing Coordinator to work on the implementation of the Regional Housing Recovery Plan under the direction of an implementation committee and supervision by MCRPC Executive Director. Staff have been in communication with DCEO regarding budget allocation. He advised that County Administration and Human Resources have decided on an RFP process to hire for this temporary, termed position.

Ms. Roser asked if that process would take longer than the normal hire process. Mr. Lai advised that this will probably be. A typical hiring process for a position of this type will involve less steps.

- c. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Mr. Talavera explained that MCRPC Staff has attended the June Affordable and Supportive Housing Committee Meeting and the July Housing Staff Committee Meeting. Staff published a new white paper and put it on the website, called "Affordable Housing Needs Index." MCRPC Staff attended two Housing Coalition Meetings hosted by the Center for Human Services. They also attended the groundbreaking of "The Bridge", a shelter village development.

Mr. Bittner asked about the role that MCRPC can play to push the issues related to affordable housing. Mr. Lai explained that as a government agency we have joined Unhoused Task Force and sit on the McLean County Housing Coalition, in addition to operating MCRPC's Regional Housing Initiative. There will be an implementation committee coming soon to help implementation of the Regional Housing Recovery Plan. Mr. Bittner also asked how the Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) and Comprehensive Plan can play a role in this. Mr. Lai explained that the Regional Housing Recovery Plan has been adopted and will be incorporated as part of the Comprehensive Plan. There are a number of implementation strategies listed in the plan that can help. Mr. Teichman advised that the Governor is working to energize this process to help it along.

d. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks went over MCRPC's role as the Region 6 Coordinator. She advised a joint quarterly technical and policy meeting will be held to meet with the five Counties involved. Three of the five Counties involved have already appointment County Board members to serve on the Joint Technical and Policy meetings.

Ms. Ruder asked how the new provider is doing with the transition for rural transit. Ms. Sicks advised it's only been a month, but the transition seems to be going well. Mr. Bittner asked if the process is the same for the people in the county. Ms. Sicks advised the process is different. Connect Transit branded its rural system called Connect Go. Customers call the Connect Go number that is on the website to book services. Mr. Bittner asked if we knew what SHOWBUS's monthly average ridership numbers were. Ms. Sicks said unfortunately we do not have those numbers.

e. GO:Safe McLean County Action Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks advised that the GO:Safe plan is almost completed. The consultants will be at the upcoming open houses to answer questions and meet with the community members. Once the final draft is ready after the public review period, the Commission will have the chance to adopt the plan. After the plan is adopted, that is when the real work starts for implementation.

Mr. Burrill commented that the Town of Normal has a similar project in the works currently. Ms. Sicks advised that the Town of Normal has been very involved in this plan. Mr. Lai advised that the Town of Normal and ISU are working on a traffic safety project for ISU campus area with an IDOT grant. Ryan Otto, Town of Normal Director of Public Works & Engineering, is on the Go:Safe Project Steering Committee (PSC).

Ms. Ruder asked why the draft plan was being released for public review before the scheduled open houses. Ms. Sicks advised that we want the community to review the plan first then come to open houses with their questions about the plan.

f. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai advised there have been two PSC meetings for the RAISE grant since the last Commission meeting. One of those meetings was a workshop organized by the Consultants in June.

Ms. Roser asked if there were any conversations about additional road development for Veterans Parkway to relieve some of the pressure on Veterans Parkway. Mr. Lai advised that the conversations have been about redesigning the existing Veterans Parkway only, but not adding new roadways.

g. Strategic Land Use Plan (Anthony Baumann)

Mr. Baumann presented a PowerPoint presentation on the updates to the Draft Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP). He advised there is an extended timeline with more outreach events that community members can attend, including five open houses in McLean County. [PowerPoint available at the office for review]

After Mr. Baumann's presentation the Commissioners had various discussions about how the outreach process was developed, what the process was to create committees related to the plan, how the SLUP process began, and the overall process for SLUP to be included with the Comprehensive Plan.

h. That Which May Arise

None

7. Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act

Mr. Teichman asked members of the public and MCRPC staff who weren't commissioners to exit the room. The Commission entered a closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to enter an Executive Closed Session. Mr. Wylie moved to enter Executive Closed Session. Ms. Roser seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Commission entered an Executive Closed Session at 5:47 p.m.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to enter back into regular session. Mr. Fruin moved to enter back into regular session. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Commission entered back into regular session at 5:58 p.m.

8. Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Grieder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant