

# Regional Planning Board

## Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Cook County Room

Offices of the Regional Planning Board

Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

**Board Members Present:** Rita R. Athas-Vice Chair (Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Chicago), Frank H. Beal (Executive Director, Chicago Metropolis 2020), Anthony Calderone (Mayor, Forest Park), Zenovia Evans (Mayor, Riverdale), Elliott Hartstein (President, Buffalo Grove), Al Larson (President, Schaumburg), Marilyn Michelini, (President, Montgomery), Raul Raymundo (Executive Director, Resurrection Project), Andre Rice (President, Muller & Monroe Asset Management), Rae Rupp Srch, (Former President, Villa Park), Dan Shea (McHenry County Board Member), Michael Smith-Vice Chair (Mayor, New Lenox), Nigel F. Telman (Partner, Sidley Austin) **Non-Voting Members:** Stephen Schlickman (Executive Director, Regional Transportation Authority-CATS), Edward Paesel (Executive Director, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association-NIPC)

**Staff Present:** Randy Blankenhorn (Executive Director, Regional Planning Board), Holly Ostdick-McCOM, Bruce Christensen-Lake County, Tom Cuculich-DuPage County, Dave Seglin-CDOT, Tam Kutzmark-DMMC, Mike Walczak-NWMC, Jill Leary-WCMC, Gordon Smith-IDOT, Beth McCluskey-NC, Jan Metzger-CNT, Scott Goldstein-MPC, Peter Skosey-MPC, Les Nuenes-IDOT, Maria Urban- CM2020, Jacky Grimshaw-CNT, Stephan Vaughn-CCHD, Bob Pilar-Niles, Scott Jochim-Niles, Joe Henrich-SSMMA, Doug McLaughlin-Metra, Amanda Eicheckkraut-RTA, Hugh O'Hara-WCGL, Steve Lazzara-Will County Planning and Development, and Paul Heltne

### I. Call to Order and Introductions

Mayor Gerald Bennett of Palos Hills and Chair of the Regional Planning Board, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the offices of the Regional Planning Board at 233 South Wacker, Chicago, Illinois.

## II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 12, 2006**

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2006 meeting, as presented, was made by Member Raymundo, seconded by Member Michelini, and passed unanimously.

## III. **Committee Reports and Status of Action Plan Goals**

*Transition Committee:* Committee Chairman Telman stated the committee has been developing an organizational plan. The committee has briefed the new Executive Director, Randy Blankenhorn.

*Executive Committee:* Chairman Bennett acknowledged the recent passing NIPC staff member Sam Santell. Ron Thomas stated the president of APA gave Sam a moving tribute. The board observed a moment of silence in Sam's honor.

NIPC was awarded the Plan of the Year Award by APA for the 2040 Framework Plan. Member Smith noted the work of Sam Santell, Hubert Morgan, and Ed Paesel for their efforts.

The Executive Committee met prior to today's board meeting to discuss organization and governance. Randy Blankenhorn stated in regards to funding, an internal transition team made of senior level staff of both organizations has been formed.

Chairman Bennett has been contacted by the Secretary of Transportation regarding funding and stated he would like a reasonable framework for those numbers. Member Paesel stated NIPC is going through its budget process and it might be helpful to get a briefing from him.

Tom McKone stated Civic Alliance had a letter to distribute recognizing the pro bono resources and consultants of AT Kearney, McKinsey, Mercer, United Way, Mayer Brown Row and Mawe. These letters of appreciation were signed by the executive committee and are to be made a part of the permanent record.

Chairman Bennett stated that any official meetings should be organized through the Executive Director to ensure all outreach is coordinated and sanctioned.

*Public Participation Committee:* Committee Chairman Hartstein stated the committee is moving forward with the Citizen's Advisory Committee selection process. The committee has been reviewing over 200 applications and the goal is to have committee recommendations to the board in the next week. Any comments can be directed to Committee Chairman Hartstein. The hope is to make formal recommendations for appointment at the next meeting.

Chairman Bennett inquired about branding updates; Member Hartstein stated there are no updates at this time.

Randy Blankenhorn stated the staff met with consultants yesterday and the branding issue is essential to affirming integration. He suggested more discussion regarding branding and organization name.

*Planning and Priorities Committee:* Committee Chairman Larson stated the committee met earlier today and had an enlightening presentation by Chicago Wilderness regarding efforts to enhance bio diversity.

Financial planning was also discussed, led by a presentation by Don Kopec. Mr. Kopec stated a need as well as a desire for a more robust financial plan has been identified. He stated that there has been some hesitancy in moving forward until the RPB was formally established. In order to satisfy federal requirements and ensure the resources needed are available, the need for an additional three billion dollars between now and 2030 has been identified. Mr. Kopec stated they are looking to the board for support in filling this gap.

Mary Sue Barrett, MPC, also presented to the committee and stated the board is in a unique position to effect planning efforts in a whole series of arenas and offered research on current initiatives.

#### **IV. Executive Director Report:**

Randy Blankenhorn stated that he has been meeting with the staff members to gain their input on what the organization should look like. He stressed they need to be actively involved in shaping the organization.

Due to the fact that By Laws have not been finalized, Mr. Blankenhorn asked the board for approval on the following action items:

\*Financial planning not to exceed 100k

\*To receive an IDOT contract to be managed by the Council of Mayors

Vice Chair Athas asked how the money would be handled. Mr. Blankenhorn responded the RPB can now contract.

Member Hartstein noted the board must be mindful of the issues surrounding these projects and need to do their part to communicate this is not a partisan issue and this can not be addressed. Vice Chair Athas stated in the future, if the board is going to vote on contracts all members need a copy of the contract.

**Roll Call Vote:** Rita R. Athas-Vice Chair (Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Chicago)-**Affirmative**, Frank H. Beal (Executive Director, Chicago Metropolis 2020)-**Affirmative**, Gerald Bennett-Chairman (Mayor, Palos Hills)-**Affirmative**, Zenovia Evans (Mayor, Riverdale)-**Affirmative**, Elliott Hartstein (President, Buffalo Grove)-**Affirmative** Al Larson (President, Schaumburg)-**Affirmative**, Marilyn Micheline, (President,

Montgomery)-**Affirmative**, Raul Raymundo (Executive Director, Resurrection Project)-**Affirmative**, Andre Rice (President Muller & Monroe Asset Management, LLC)-**Affirmative**, Rae Rupp Srch (Former President, Villa Park)-**Affirmative**, Dan Shea (McHenry County Board Member)-**Affirmative**, Michael Smith-Vice Chair (Mayor, New Lenox)-**Affirmative**, Nigel F. Telman (Partner, Sidley Austin)-**Affirmative**.

Mr. Blankenhorn reminded board members to see Sherry Kane to sign their oath of office. Also, if board members would like to get a permanent visitor pass, that too can be arranged with Sherry Kane.

**V. Public Comment:**

Tom Cuculich of DuPage stated he would like to keep the O'Hare western bypass project on the board members' mind. Illinois received \$140 million for that project. He stated DuPage just had their second meeting with the Federal Highway Authority and IDOT will be putting a request for a consultant to initiate an environmental impact process.

Jackie Grimshaw of CNT stated there are Regional Transportation Plan update meetings scheduled over the next two weeks. Mr. Blankenhorn informed that it is an outreach effort and a neutral party is being sent out to gain public input on the update.

**VI. Other Business:**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Smith to change the meeting [from June 14] to June 21, 2006 at 10:00 am, in order to accommodate other meetings. Member Larson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Meeting fully changed to June 21 at 10 am. Chairman Bennett stated the board is in the midst of core work and expressed gratitude for everyone's flexibility.

Member Rupp Srch expressed her appreciation for Randy Blankenhorn's first nine days and acknowledged his effort to reach out to everyone.

**VII. Next Meeting-June 21, 2006**

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Hartstein, seconded by Member Rupp Srch and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah Sheehan*

Staff Liaison-RPB

/stk  
06-15-06

*Approved, as presented, by unanimous vote June 21, 2006.*