

REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

Thursday, November 03, 2005

12:30 pm

Chicago Area Transportation Study
Cunningham-Williams Conference Room
300 West Adams, 2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois

MINUTES

Ms. Athas opened the meeting, noting that the important issues to be addressed were attested to by the large number of attendees. She invited all those present to introduce themselves. Those present were:

Planning Board members

Rita Athas, City of Chicago
Frank Beal, City of Chicago
Gerry Bennett, Cook County
Anthony Calderone, Cook County
Zenovia Evans, Cook County
Elliott Hartstein, Lake County
Calvin Jordan, Cook County
Al Larson, Cook County
Ed Paesel, NIPC
Raul Raymundo, City of Chicago
André Rice, City of Chicago
Steve Schlickman, CATS
Dan Shea, McHenry County
Mike Smith, Will County
Rae Rupp Srch, DuPage County
Nigel Telman, City of Chicago

Others in attendance

Tom Adams, Green Oaks
Mark Avery, DuPage County
Mark Baloga, DMMC
David Bennett, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Patricia Berry, CATS
Randy Blankenhorn, IDOT
Bruce Christensen, Lake County
Tom Cuculich, DuPage County
Brian Fabes, CCA
Nancy Firfer, Chicago Metropolis 2020
Tracey Fleming, Chicago Metropolis 2020
Mark Fowler, NWMC

Tom Garritano, NIPC
Jacky Grimshaw, CNT
Brooke Hecht, Center for Humans & Nature
Joe Heinrich, SSMMA
Edgar Hernandez, The Resurrection Project
Pat Higgins, WCMC
Joyce Hollingsworth, DePaul GAP
Natashia Holmes, Metropolitan Planning Council
Chalen Hunter, NWMC
Don Kopec, CATS
Wally Kos, Cook County Highways
Jim LaBelle, Chicago Metropolis 2020
Jill Leary, WCMC
Dan Lynch, CCA
Beth McCluskey, NCCOM
Jan Metzger, CNT
Anna B. Mueller, McHenry County Council of Governments
Hugh O'Hara, WCGL
John O'Neal, Center for Humans & Nature
Holly Ostdick, McHenry County COM
Andy Plummer, RTA
Erika Poethig, MacArthur Foundation
Tom Rickert, Kane/Kendall
David C. Seglin, CDOT
Sarah Sheehan, GAP
Gordon Smith, IDOT
Holly Smith, Kane/Kendall COM
Vicky Smith, SW Conference of Mayors
Ron Thomas, NIPC
Maria Choca Urban, Chicago Metropolis 2020
Stephen Vaughn, CCHD
Mike Walczak, NWMC
Thomas Weaver, Metra
Dick Welton, Attainable Housing Alliance
Christine Wilson, Lake County Municipal League

1. Distribution of draft October 20, 2005 meeting minutes

Mr. Kopec said the draft minutes had been e-mailed to members. Consideration of approval will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Kopec noted that résumés and contact information are still needed from many of the Regional Planning Board members. He encouraged all members to e-mail that information to him as soon as possible. Mr. Kopec also asked that if any of the members were having problems receiving e-mails, they let him know.

2. Report of the Nominating Committee and
3. Election of Officers

Ms. Athas said she had sent the report of the nominating committee out earlier in the week, but she understood that it did not get to CATS and that many members did not receive the report until yesterday. She said the Regional Planning Board is forging new ground and the nominating committee took a number of considerations into account. The Regional Planning Board has a tough year ahead. The legislation creating the Board called for a Chair and Vice-Chair but was not clear on a Secretary or Treasurer. The Board has a mix of people familiar with issues and folks with fresh ideas.

Ms. Athas said the nominees are Gerry Bennett as Chair, Mike Smith and Rita Athas as Vice-Chairs and Nigel Telman, Al Larson and Elliott Hartstein as at large members of the Executive Committee of the Regional Planning Board. As indicated in the memo from the nominating committee, the slate represents a geographical balance and a good mix of positions and experience. The at large positions were create in recognition that the committee structure and officer functions are as yet undefined.

Mr. Larson agreed and emphasized the importance of representing the city of Chicago, suburban Cook County and the collar counties equally, which the proposed slate does.

Mr. Calderone moved acceptance of the officer nominations from the nominating committee. Mr. Beal provided the second.

Ms. Rupp Srch agreed with the reasoning used by the nominating committee and noted that most often an Executive Committee has an uneven number of members so there is no possibility of a tie. Ms. Athas responded that the region got to the point it's at by consensus and only by consensus. A vote of three to two would not represent consensus. The Board will be looking not for majorities, but for consensus.

Mr. Hartstein noted that the legislation requires an extraordinary majority—12 votes out of 15. So requiring four votes of the Executive Committee in order to take action is consistent with how the legislation was drafted. He agreed that consensus is important.

Ms. Athas called the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Appointments to Working Committees

Chairman Bennett thanked all for their vote of confidence. He noted that much of his experience is in building consensus and it is an honor and a privilege to be charged with bringing people together. He also noted that he has a reputation for starting meetings on time, which he expects to continue. Chairman Bennett expressed his confidence in the talent available on the Regional Planning Board and said he expected that the first four or five months will be setting out organizationally what the Board needs to do. He said the Executive Committee is a great balance of individuals he knows and suggested that a good portion of the work assigned to the committees established at the last meeting could be resolved by the Executive Committee. Chairman Bennett said that lots of information could be gathered and the core group can begin work on the September statute.

Mr. Beal agreed that the tasks the four committees established at the last meeting are responsible for are appropriate for the Executive Committee and suggested the rest of the Board committees should be dealing with substantive issues. Mr. Beal suggested that in addition to the Executive Committee, the Board establish public participation, planning and priorities and transition committees. The public participation committee would address the creation of the Citizens Advisory Committee and take some of the burden from CATS and NIPC. Planning and priorities would address the comprehensive plan, priorities and financial plan required by the legislation. The transition committee would lead the required transition activities, including development of the report due in September, 2006.

Ms. Rupp Srch said the four committees should be under the Executive Committee, but those committees are time consuming and the work should be spread around some. It would be fine to have an Executive Committee member chair each and have participation from other Board members. Ms. Evans said the bylaws committee should get its work done by the next meeting and the other three committees will be longer term. Ms. Evans agreed with Ms. Rupp Srch that the other three committees should be chaired by Executive Committee members.

Ms. Athas asked which committees are under discussion. She said the four committees discussed at the last meeting are all doing operational activities and their work does not cover the three task in the legislation: the Citizens Advisory Committee, advocating for priorities and developing a comprehensive plan, and developing a transition plan. She suggested that the Board meld the four committees established at the last meeting with the new ones proposed today. Ms. Athas said it should be possible to develop the bylaws quickly with the help of the pro bono legal firms. The Executive Committee could then approve the bylaws. Personnel issues are something that a consulting firm will work on and make recommendations on; the Board's personnel and operations committee would have more of a review function.

Chairman Bennett noted that everything that is done will be ultimately be decided by the Board. Members who want to be involved in specific committees are welcome. Mr. Smith said the Board should put a committee structure in place, but the whole Board is welcome to participate in any and all committees. He noted that the Executive Committee would not be doing the leg work-that would be done by consultants. Mr. Smith reviewed some of the tasks already identified-bylaws, finances, benefits and said all of these issues need professional expertise. He said all Board members would be welcome to sit in on discussions.

Ms. Athas said the financial oversight and planning committee established at the last meeting is similar to the planning priorities committee proposed today. The work is not just oversight of the organization itself, but also developing planning priorities. She noted that the Board must develop a report in 2006 and a specification of priorities. The legal and legislative committee established at the last meeting is similar to the transition committee proposed today. One committee would be looking at operational issues and one at how we get there.

Mr. Hartstein said the Board needs to make sure it is properly staffed. It is critical to have a good staff person at the helm. The Board can synthesize and set policy, but needs someone on a day-to-day basis. Chairman Bennett said the six members of the Executive Committee can handle structural issues and the bylaws. Mr. Paesel said the Board is moving in the right direction. He said that when NIPC produces the 2040 Plan or when CATS produces the RTP, they're going to come to the Regional Planning Board for review and blessing. If NIPC asks for approval of a land use model, who do they go to? The Executive Committee? The financial committee? The entire RPB?

Mr. Schlickman said a review of the functional breakdown of the committees is in order. Setting priorities is the brunt of the Board's work and many of the members will want to be involved in this key and critical area. He agreed with Ms. Evans, suggesting the Board needs bylaws to distill the relationship between the committees and the Board. Chairman Bennett spoke to the permanency of the committees, suggesting that much will change over the first year. He said the bylaws should be fairly general to begin with and more focused on how we need to be. Mr. Smith said the elected officers of the Regional Planning Board should be sufficient until the report to the legislature is complete. The bylaws will set things up functionally. He said that once the Board has made its recommendation to the legislature, the legislature has acted, and the Board has funding, it can move forward with its substantive work.

Mr. Raymundo said that for the next year the committees should suffice. Down the road, there may be a need for change. Ms. Athas said the tasks of the by-laws and the operations committees will be done by the Executive Committee. The others will eventually be working committees. She said the Regional

Planning Board needs to act as a full board as much as possible and perhaps formal committees are not yet necessary.

Chairman Bennett said aspects of the work outlined for the Bylaws and Personnel committees will be accomplished by the Executive Committee and other members are welcome to participate. Ms. Rupp Srch said that was a good idea and in that case, a member of the Executive Committee would be chair of the Bylaws Committee and other Board members could be on the committee. Mr. Raymundo also agreed, reiterating that these committees will serve for the next year and permanent committees will be established later. Mr. Hartstein said everyone can be part of each committee. He said the Executive Committee needs to decide on short term tasks and who wants to work on those tasks. One member of the Executive Committee can serve on each, and all members can contribute ideas. Mr. Hartstein suggested that perhaps these should be working groups of the Board rather than committees.

Mr. Shea said bylaws usually give direction, but Mr. Beal has something developed, and the Board should see if it fits with the interests of the group. Ms. Athas suggested that the committee structure adopted at the last meeting and the one proposed today by Mr. Beal could be discussed at the retreat. Mr. Shea said there are boiler plates available for bylaws and the Board shouldn't have to get together over every point.

Ms. Rupp Srch said the Board needs to get its bylaws in place. She said the seminar or workshop that's been proposed to provide background for all members is an important step in identifying the qualifications the Board will be looking for in its executive director. Chairman Bennett said staff assistance for the Board is essential. Getting an executive director on board is the next important step. He said it is important to get started now as it will take time to conduct interviews. Mr. Beal said the Executive Committee should be directed to undertake that as soon as possible. Ms. Evans agreed and said the specifications should be put in place in the next two weeks. She asked that the Board be kept informed of decisions. The Executive Committee should let the Board know if it plans to search within the region or outside of the region and what qualification it will be looking for. Board members can contact the Executive Committee members to provide input. On a motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Mr. Calderone, the Executive Committee was authorized to begin work on specifications for the executive director. Mr. Smith added that it will also be important for the Executive Committee to identify potential funding.

5. Regional Planning Board Support

Mr. David Bennett said that discussions have been ongoing with DePaul's Government Assistance Program (GAP), the Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA) and the MacArthur Foundation. He noted that representatives of the organizations

are available and presented a flow chart from Brian Forbes and a letter from GAP. Mr. David Bennett said the Regional Planning Board is the client and must approve the scope of work. He reviewed the flow chart point by point and discussed which areas GAP will manage and which areas CCA will manage. From January through April they will be putting pen to paper with Board overview. Ms. Hollingsworth said another way to characterize the work is that GAP will be managing the process and CCA will be managing the substance. GAP supports and helps articulate the work plan.

Mr. Fabes, Executive Director of the CCA, said that Mr. Bennett and Ms. Hollingsworth had summarized the work well. The CCA is a 5013c non-profit. It used to be the FRAC and has been around for 20 years. It is supported by the Civic Association and the MacArthur Foundation and partners with large consulting firms in the city. The CCA looks to these firms for assistance. For this project it is likely law firms, human resources firms, and organizations involved in planning and strategic support will be employed.

Ms. Poethig of the MacArthur Foundation described why the Foundation is interested in funding this effort. She said the Foundation supports the expansion or creation of a regional framework for decision making. It has provided support to Metropolis 2020, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the Metropolitan Planning Council. The Foundation was delighted by the signing of the legislation creating the RPB and invited the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to develop a proposal so the Board could avail itself of the Foundation's resources. After discussions with GAP, CCA and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Foundation is pleased to consider the proposal.

Mr. David Bennett said the proposal to the MacArthur Foundation could be submitted on November 11 or December 12. A decision could be made on the proposal by November 15 if the November 11 deadline is met. He said the GAP and CCA attachment will be used as a start and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus can fine-tune the proposal. If the Board authorizes the Executive Committee to review the proposal, the November deadline can be met.

Mr. Hartstein applauded the work of the MacArthur Foundation and noted that Regional Planning Board members are accountable to the public they are representing and to the public at large. He asked if there are any strings attached to the funding. Chairman Bennett said the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has been funded by the Foundation and has found there are no strings attached. On a motion by Mr. Larson, seconded by Ms. Rupp Srch, the Executive Committee was authorized to work with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to develop and submit the proposal for funding to the MacArthur Foundation.

Ms. Evans said she was happy that the group was moving forward. She asked if by hiring GAP and CCA, the Board will be limiting support to only those two organizations. Chairman Bennett said that while both of those groups would

assist the Board in making decisions, the Board may have to hire additional consultants. Ms. Athas added that the reason for hiring the two groups is because of the short time frame. GAP did work for the CATS/NIPC Coordinating Committee and know the issues. The CCA has the expertise and ability to provide services that are beyond the capacity of the MacArthur Foundation...the law firms, human resources firms, etc. that were mentioned earlier. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus was recommended as the fiscal agent for expediency. Chairman Bennett clarified that the Board has authorized the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to contract with GAP and CCA on behalf of the Regional Planning Board.

Mr. Raymundo asked if the representative from the MacArthur Foundation would like to answer Mr. Hartstein's question. Ms. Poethig thanked Mr. Raymundo for the opportunity to speak. She said the Foundation must follow IRS regulations and if there is an extra level of reporting required or requested they would be happy to comply. Ms. Poethig said while the MacArthur Foundation does have a stake in the outcome of the decisions to be made by the RPB, the decisions are the RPB's to make. Ms. Rupp Srch asked Mr. David Bennett if the proposal to the MacArthur Foundation will basically be the PowerPoint presentation that was distributed. Mr. David Bennett replied affirmatively.

Mr. Paesel said the next step would be to examine how this work fits with the existing NIPC/CATS/Mayors Caucus work. All need to understand where those staff fit into the process. Chairman Bennett said the Mayors Caucus will do leg work and CATS and NIPC may be called on as resources for the retreat.

Mr. David Bennett said that November 29 and 30 are likely dates for the retreat. These dates are the fifth Tuesday and fifth Wednesday of the month, and will be available to most of the members. The Union League Club is a possible location for the retreat. Mr. Hartstein said the last day of the month is bad for him as is the 30th. Ms. Rupp Srch asked about the anticipated length of the retreat. Mr. David Bennett said it would likely cover an afternoon and a working dinner. Ms. Hollingsworth said GAP would suggest a full day. Chairman Bennett suggested that a Saturday might work better for members, and suggested December 3. Ms. Athas said she was not available to meet that day. After discussion, it was agreed that the retreat would be scheduled for nine to five on December 2.

Chairman Bennett asked Mr. Blankenhorn how much funding IDOT has committed for the Executive Director's position. Mr. Blankenhorn said that no limit had been set. Ms. Rupp Srch asked how long IDOT would continue to provide funding. Mr. Blankenhorn said IDOT will not reduce its financial commitment at least until there is a financial plan in place.

6. Public Comment

Mr. LaBelle distributed a briefing book developed by Chicago Metropolitan 2020.

Mr. Cuculich noted that DuPage County had provided staff support for early on and throughout the discussions leading up to the formation of the Regional Planning Board and offered that resource again.

Ms. Metzger suggested that, at a minimum, the websites of CATS and NIPC should include information on the RPB's work. Chairman Bennett thanked Ms. Metzger for the suggestion and Mr. Thomas said that NIPC has developed a draft template for the RPB. Ms. Rupp Srch asked if the website will include information on when and where the Board's Executive Committee would be meeting. Chairman Bennett answered affirmatively.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 17 at 9 a.m.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Larson the Board adjourned.