

**Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting
Racine County Comprehensive Plan Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee**

DATE: January 17, 2008

TIME: 6:30 pm

PLACE: Racine County Ives Grove Auditorium
14200 Washington Ave
Sturtevant, WI

Attendance:

Tom Kramer, Town of Norway
Mary Kacmarcik (Chairperson), Town of Waterford
Audrey Viau, Village of Elmwood Park
Phil Peterson, Town of Burlington
Jim Moyer, Town of Yorkville
Dave Pattengale, Village of Rochester
Connie Mellem (Vice-Chairperson), Village of North Bay
Stan Bugnacki, Town of Raymond
Tom Roanhouse, Village of Waterford
Pete Christensen, Village of Wind Point
Mike Weinkauff, Town of Rochester
Rebecca Ewald, Village of Waterford
Ron Meyer, Village of Mt. Pleasant
Brennan Kane, Village of Mt. Pleasant
Matt Sadowski, City of Racine
Julie Anderson, Planning & Development
Dave Schilling, SEWRPC
Tom Moes, SEWRPC
Kristen Lie, Racine County UW-Extension

1. Roll Call

Mary Karmarcik called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Roll call was taken by circulating a sign-up sheet.

2. Approval of November 15, 2007 meeting minutes

Stan Bugacki made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Pete Christensen. Connie Mellem corrected a typing error in section four. Upon a voice vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. DRIVE Initiative/Racine County EDP 4.0 – Gordy Kacala, RCEDC

Gordy Kacala of the Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) presented information on the Racine Development Plan (RDP), first developed in 2001. RDP Version 4.0, which is expected to be adopted by the RCEDC and the Racine County Board of Supervisors in March 2008, outlines five challenges to economic development and strategies to meet those challenges, as well as lead and support partners to work on each strategy. These challenges include cultivating an entrepreneurial culture in Racine County; focusing on the importance of technology and innovation relative to the growth of existing businesses and the attraction of new businesses to the community; utilizing the existing natural and cultural resources, recreational opportunities and business location advantages to promote a positive image of Racine County to existing residents and those outside the community; taking advantage of the development opportunities that exist as a result of the Chicago/Milwaukee corridor and properly linking land use with future business development county-wide; and linking education and training in a manner that provides a competitive workforce. Mr. Kacala noted that businesses in both the Cities of Racine and Burlington reported great difficulty in filling good positions with the current workforce in Racine County, due primarily to job seekers' inability to pass drug and alcohol tests.

Mr. Kacala also provided a brief overview of the DRIVE! Initiative (Developing Racine County through Innovation, Vision, and Entrepreneurship), which is a program to attract new businesses and to help existing businesses to expand. It emphasizes the location advantages of Racine County and specifies targeted industries for the County.

4. Review of preliminary draft of Chapter VIII, “Issues & Opportunities,” of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035

Tom Moes of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) presented a review of Draft Chapter VIII, “Issues and Opportunities Element,” including the purpose of the issues and opportunities element, the visioning process and vision statement, issues and opportunities, and the overall County goals. The issues and opportunities element provides the basic framework for the plan, putting forth a vision of the desired future for the community.

The visioning process, including the development of the vision statement, was tied to the inventory data from Chapters II through VI, the population, household, and employment projections from Chapter VII, and public participation efforts, such as the informational meetings and the countywide public opinion survey. The MJAC approved the vision statement provided in the draft chapter, with one change, so that it read:

“Racine County will work to preserve and enhance a vibrant, healthy, environmentally and economically sustainable community that enables opportunities for people of all ages, income levels, ethnicities, and cultural heritages.”

Julie Anderson questioned whether the explanation of “sustainability” in the draft chapter overemphasized the role of environmental stewardship. Mike Weinkauff noted that environmental problems might be one reason why Racine County is often not seen as an ideal place to work and live. Connie Mellem suggested changing the wording to reflect more balance between the environment, the economy, and the common good of the community.

Mr. Moes then reviewed countywide issues and opportunities and the overall County goals. Dave Schilling noted that the goals are intended to be very broad, and that details and additional goals and objectives will be developed through the plan elements. Mike Weinkauff asked whether SEWRPC had a definition the term “open space,” and what criteria were imposed on that designation (for example, size requirements and restrictions on potential future development). Phil Peterson also noted the different perceptions of open space that was publicly owned versus that which was privately owned. Mr. Schilling responded that the definition of open space varies from community to community, but that he expected SEWRPC and Racine County Planning & Development would be able to provide a definition when the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element was prepared.

A motion to approve Draft Chapter VIII was made by Connie Mellem and seconded by Jim Moyer. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business

Mary Kacmarcik asked for a status report on the Housing Subcommittee. Julie Anderson stated that the formation of the subcommittee had been unexpectedly and unintentionally delayed, but that the comprehensive planning team expected to mail the invitation letter to potential subcommittee members within the coming week, with the work group meetings estimated to begin the final week of February. Ms. Kacmarcik then asked for at least a tentative timeline for the remainder of the comprehensive planning process. Ms. Anderson stated that the proposed timeline was in the most recent status report to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and that Kristen Lie would forward both progress reports to the committee for their review.

6. Determination of next meeting date

Julie Anderson announced that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 6:30 pm in the Ives Grove Auditorium. Dave Schilling reported that the agenda would most likely involve a review of Draft Chapter XIV, “Economic Development Element.”

7. Adjournment

On a motion made by Tom Kramer and seconded by Connie Mellem, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.