

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Special Development & Planning (D&P)
CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage
DATE/TIME: May 13, 2014 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merri Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John O'Boyle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Heuerman
<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Rutz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RJ Winkelhake

Other Board members: Brandon Behlke

Others: Dan Reimer, Melisa Hammer, Beth Baranski, Mike Murphy, Brad Petersburg, Rick Vojta, David Shelow, Tom Stafford, Steve Barg and Jerry Johnson.

- 1. Citizens' Comments.** Rick Vojta, president of the GOATS cycling club, discussed safety concerns in using Blackjack Road as an alternate route for the Great River Trail to Galena. He commented on the dangers of hiking or cycling on Blackjack Road and expressed support of the resolution supporting extension of the Great River Trail to Galena.

David Shelow, a resident on River Road, discussed liability concerns in using River Road as a route for the Great River Trails to Galena.

Jerry Johnson, Rice Township Trustee, handed out pictures of River Road's current conditions and expressed liability concerns and costs associated with opening and maintaining River Road.

Mike Murphy, General Manager of Chestnut Mountain Resort, spoke in support of the Great River Trail to Galena and the use of River Road as part of the route to Galena.

- 2. Unfinished Business**

- 3. New Business.**

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution supporting the extension of the Great River Trail to Galena** - Brad Petersburg discussed that the Great River Trail Coalition, formed under the auspices of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, is supporting efforts to implement the specific trail recommendations identified as part of its overall vision of a safe and scenic trail that parallels the Galena and Mississippi Rivers from Galena to Savanna. Petersburg informed the committee that at this time they are asking for a resolution in support and not a monetary contribution. Petersburg discussed possible options for implementing the Galena River Trail to Galena. RJ Winkelhake discussed that he would like to have more information on the possible liabilities that Rice Township would have if River Road was reopened. **RJ Winkelhake made a motion to move forward with out a recommendation a resolution supporting the extension of the Great River Trail to Galena. Seconded by John O'Boyle and motion passed.**

- b) Discussion and possible action regarding a letter reaffirming County Board support for the development of a senior living community proposed by Prairie Ridge of Galena LLC and for its inclusion in the City of Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone** - Merri Berlage discussed that the Prairie Ridge of Galena request for inclusion in the enterprise zone was previously approved by the Jo Daviess County Board. This letter reaffirms County Board support for the development of a senior living community proposed by Prairie Ridge of Galena LLC and for its inclusion in the City of Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone. **RJ Winkelhake made a motion to approve a letter reaffirming County Board support for the development of a senior living community proposed by Prairie Ridge of Galena LLC and for its inclusion in the City of Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone. Seconded by Robert Heuerman and motion passed.**

- 4. Citizens' Comments.**

5. **Board Member Concerns.** Merri Berlage discussed that on the next Development and Planning Committee agenda there will be an item regarding a county pledge for in-kind services in support of the Upper Mississippi River International Port District's request for federal funding assistance through the EDA Technical Assistance Program.

Next meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 @ 7:00 pm.

RJ Winkelhake made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm, seconded by John O'Boyle and motion passed.