

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Development & Planning (D&P)**
CHAIRPERSON: **Ron Mapes**
DATE/TIME: **October 27, 2009**

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merri Berlage	<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Monk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Mapes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lorig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> Marvin Schultz

Other Board members:

Others: Dan Reimer, Linda Delvaux and Mike Scholz.

Ron Mapes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the 3rd floor evacuation policy.

1. **Minutes.** Mike Lorig made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2009 meeting, seconded by Ron Smith and motion passed. Mike Lorig made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2009 meeting, seconded by Merri Berlage and motion passed. Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mike Lorig and motion passed.
2. **Citizens' Comments.** None.
3. **Staff Reports**
 - a) **Building and Zoning.** Linda Delvaux reported that in November there may not be a Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning Commission meeting due to the lack of new agenda action items. Delvaux discussed an orientation manual she completed for Building and Zoning. The manual is available to all County Board and Committee members and can be obtained through the Building and Zoning Department or the County Administrator's Office.
 - b) **Economic Development.** Ron Mapes reported that Pat Leitzen-Fye was unable to attend the meeting due to illness but provided a report which was in the Committee packet.

Chairman Mapes requested that item 5c be moved forward at this time.

Presentation of Chicago-Dubuque Passenger Rail by Janet Fisher, Co-Chair of The Blackhawk Area Rail Coalition (BARC). Janet Fisher reported on the background of The Blackhawk Area Rail Coalition (BARC) and that the group was originally established about 17 years ago with the name of The Galena Railroad Coalition. In 2007 Amtrak completed a feasibility study that identified three possible routes from Chicago to Dubuque. The most feasible route, which was chosen by the Federal Rail Authority, is a route that goes through Geneoa, IL which was the old Blackhawk Route. This route will start in Chicago and will stop at South Elgin, Geneoa, 2 in Rockford (Downtown and Alpine Road), Freeport, Galena and Dubuque. Lena, IL is also trying to gain approval from the Illinois Department of Railroads and Amtrak for a stop in their town. Fisher reported that the Federal Rail Authority will be announcing in March or April 2010 the decisions for funding passenger rail and if BARC is approved for funding. Janet gave a list of items that needed to be addressed and planned for by the County before the rail service begins. Some of these items include; passenger transportation, signage to find the train station, long term and short term parking and food services as the train will not be offering this service. It was discussed that the train will be leaving Dubuque, IA around 5:00 or 5:30 a.m. and arrive at Union Station in Chicago around 10:00 a.m. with a return on the same day to Dubuque by around 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. This route will not be in competition with the Quad Cities route, they have two different types of applications and they are looking at different types of services. Funds are designated to the BARC project in the proposed Illinois Capital Bill so if this bill is adopted funding should be available for this project. Janet stated that if it is not feasible for the County to support BARC with funding at this time, they can support BARC by becoming a member of the group, there are currently 30,000 members. The County may also want to consider passing a resolution in support. Dan

Reimer informed the committee that in 2007 the County Board adopted a resolution in support of BARC and he would work with Fischer to draft a new resolution for 2009. Ron Mapes asked that this be placed on the agenda for next month with a possible resolution of support. Merri Berlage stated that she would look at the provided website (returnthetrain.com) for information on the grants and what they would entail and report back to the committee next month.

4. Unfinished Business

- a) **Discussion of Comprehensive Plan.** Ron Mapes informed the committee that at the last meeting it was decided that Kim Monk would begin discussion of the Comprehensive Plan. Kim Monk will cover the first and second section and this will be placed on the agenda for next months meeting.
- b) **Historic Preservation.** Kim Monk was not able to attend the meeting, this item will be remain on next months agenda.
- c) **Strategic Plan – 2009 Goals and Discussion of 2010 Committee Goals.** Ron Mapes went over the provided list of possible 2010 goals and asked if any of the members had goals to add to the list. Mike Lorig suggested adding passenger rail transportation as a goal and it was the consensus of the committee to add this item.
- d) **Update on Port Authority Bill SB1784.** Due to Marvin Schultz not being able to attend this meeting and provide an update this item will remain on the agenda for next month.
- e) **Discussion, recommendation and possible action on TECEDA.** Ron Mapes reported that TECEDA is in the process of hiring an executive director. Ron reminded the committee that Pat Leitzen-Fye has decided not to renew her contract for economic development services, so effective December 1, 2009, Jo Daviess County will be without an Economic Development Director. Committee members discussed economic development services that they would like see TECEDA provide the County. The Committee discussed if a representative from TECEDA would be assigned to work with the CEDS committee or if a representative from the Development and Planning Committee or County Board should be appointed. Ron Smith suggested that the committee develop and prioritize a list of economic development services they would like to see provided to the County by TECEDA. Dan Reimer will review the current economic development service agreement and compile a list of items for the Committee to consider. He will forward this list on to the committee before the next meeting. Ron Mapes requested that after a list of services is finalized they be forwarded to Russ Simpson, Interim Executive Director for TECEDA. Mapes would like to invite the new TECEDA Executive Director, when hired, to a Development and Planning meeting and discuss services TECEDA will provide the County.

5. New Business

- a) **Consideration, discussion and possible action on the CEDS committee recommendation of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan.** Merri Berlage made a motion to move forward the 2009 Jo Daviess County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan to the County Board for approval. **Seconded by Ron Mapes and motion passed.**
- b) **Presentation of 2009 Business Retention Survey (BRE).** A final draft of the BRE survey was supplied to the committee by Pat Leitzen-Fye. Three bids were received for printing of the BRE report. These bids were from Eastrich Printing & Sales of Freeport, IL, Scott Printing and Design of Dubuque, IA and Freeport Press of Freeport, IL. **Mike Lorig made a motion to approve the bid from Eastrich Printing & Sales of Freeport, IL for BRE brochures with the quantity to be determined by Economic Development Director of either 250 for \$325 or 500 for \$620. Seconded by Ron Smith and motion passed.**
- c) **Presentation from Janet Fischer on High Speed Passenger Rail.** see above
- d) **Consideration, discussion and possible action on Recovery Zone Bond Allocations.** Dan Reimer informed the committee that he received information from Ehlers Inc. of Lisle, IL on recovery zone bond allocations that may be of interest to Jo Daviess County. The deadline for issuing any Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds or Recover Zone Facility Bonds is December 21, 2010. Dan Reimer will

contact Kevin Willis of First Midstate Inc. and Merri Berlage will contact Ehlers Inc. for further information and this will be placed on the November Development and Planning agenda.

6. Other Business. None

7. Citizens' Comments. None

8. Board Member Concerns. Ron Smith reported that at the LRA meeting there will be a vote on allowing a sub-zone for a foreign trade zone to Danisco.

Next regular meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm following a motion made by Merri Berlage and seconded by Mike Lorig.