

Kenosha County
Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (MJAC)
(“Smart Growth”)

MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2009

Present: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Fred Ekornaas, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Bill Morris to approve the November 25, 2008 MJAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by John Holloway and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC representatives.

Status report – Local Land Use Plan Maps and Chapter IX, “Land Use Element Chapter,” of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Nancy Anderson of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) stated that three of the local communities participating in the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort do not yet have approved land use plan maps, and staff members from SEWRPC and the County Department of Planning & Development are currently meeting with these communities to develop maps. Local community maps will be compiled to create the Kenosha County land use plan map. Ms. Anderson noted that the Village of Silver Lake approved a land use plan map in early January, and the other maps are expected to be completed and approved in March. If timing permits, the Land Use Element will be completed at the end of March in time for the MJAC to review the element at the April meeting.

Status report – Revised Report Chapters: Nancy Anderson stated that the six element chapters completed to date and the six inventory chapters (Chapters I-VI) were undergoing revisions, as suggested by local governments. SEWRPC has been sending the revised inventory chapters to the Advisory Committee members and comprehensive planning staff, while the revised element chapters have been sent to the comprehensive plan’s full distribution list. She noted that SEWRPC would also send revised inventory chapters to the full distribution list if committee members felt it necessary. None of the MJAC members requested full distribution of revised inventory chapters.

Brainstorming on Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation: Nancy Anderson noted that SEWRPC planned to work on the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element through February for review in March. She drew attention to the examples of intergovernmental cooperation efforts in Washington and Ozaukee Counties, which had been provided for committee members prior to the meeting. She then asked members to brainstorm on existing examples of intergovernmental cooperation in Kenosha County, and on potential efforts that the County and local governments could consider. Committee members spent approximately five to ten minutes on this activity, then their ideas were shared with the group. Results from the brainstorming session are attached.

Review and possible action on revised Chapter XI, “Transportation Element,” of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Nancy Anderson stated that the revisions to Chapter XI had been reviewed in detail at the previous (November 2008) MJAC meeting, though no action had been taken because not all the local communities had had adequate time to look over the revised element. She noted that a few more changes had been requested, and distributed excerpts from the chapter showing the requested changes. The most substantive was a request from the Village of Pleasant Prairie that the local government recommendation under the “Multi-Modal Transportation System Issue and Recommendations” section be revised from “Local communities should continue to work with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to support the development of the KRM commuter rail,” to: “Local communities should consider the development of the KRM commuter rail.”

Other changes included:

- A change to the program regarding WisDOT's *Connections 2030* plan.
- Kenosha County staff requested that the program to develop and implement a detailed bike and pedestrian trail plan for the County be revised to include the formation of an advisory committee to guide the process.
- Map XI-4 (Existing and Recommended Bicycle Ways Identified in County and Local Government Plans and Other Existing Trails) was revised at the request of County staff to include trails within the Bong Recreation Area and snowmobile trails.

Jeff Butler made a motion to accept the revised Chapter XI, "Transportation Element." The motion was seconded by Peggy Herrick.

John Holloway commented that he had not received a clear indication from the Town of Paris Board regarding the element, noting that the community had particular concerns regarding the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail. Fred Ekornaas noted that the current revision to the local government recommendation changed the idea of endorsing the KRM to a commitment to consider and discuss the commuter rail. Lon Weinke of Twin Lakes asked whether there were other references to the RTA in the element, or whether the focus was mainly on the KRM. Nancy Anderson replied that there are policies in the element that support the creation of an RTA.

Fred Ekornaas requested an individual voice vote on the motion to approve the revised Transportation Element:
Ayes: Dennis Faber, Rich Gossling, Bill Morris, Fred Ekornaas, Peggy Herrick, Jerry Helmert, Jeff Butler, Joanne Maggio

Nays: John Holloway, Rich Schroeder

Ayes: 8; Nays: 2.

The motion carried.

Review and possible action on revised Chapter XII, "Utilities and Community Facilities Element," of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Nancy Anderson reviewed the revisions to Chapter XII, "Utilities and Community Facilities Element," which included:

- Following discussion at the November MJAC meeting, SEWRPC revised Map XII-2, which highlights fire protection response rates, to show areas that fell within five-minute response times, instead of the previously mapped areas that were within 1.5 and four miles of a fire station. Nancy Anderson noted that this change reduced lands within the coverage area, but the response time provided a more accurate indicator of service.
- Additional information was included to clarify that proposals for shared or consolidated services and facilities should be analyzed to ensure that cost savings will occur and that service levels will not be reduced.
- Additional information was included to reduce the focus on joint services between the County and local governments by citing cooperative efforts among all levels of government (towns, villages, cities, counties, state, and federal).

Ms. Anderson also summarized additional comments from the Village of Pleasant Prairie and from the planner serving the Towns of Bristol, Salem, and Wheatland that had been submitted in response to the revised chapter. No motion to approve the element was made. Nancy Anderson asked the committee whether their local governments wanted revisions to the element prior to taking action, or whether the local governments had not yet had the opportunity to fully review the element. It was indicated by the committee that the lack of action on the element was due to local governments not yet having reviewed the revised element. Nancy Anderson asked if communities would like to receive another copy of the chapter with the additional changes that had been requested, and the committee responded in the affirmative. Approval of the element was deferred to a future meeting.

Citizen Comments: Fred Ekornaas read two letters regarding properties along Lilly Lake into the minutes; these are attached. Jeff Butler noted that the persons who had written the letters were in attendance and asked whether they had additional comments for the committee. Rita Kissner, Linda Gissell, and Gerald Dressler all addressed the committee with concerns about development around Lilly Lake, including the size of new houses, and structures being built on lands identified by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as wetlands and floodplains. John Roth responded to their concerns, though he noted that these were issues handled by the County Department of Planning & Development.

Pat Finnemore added that some of the feedback from the MJAC tour of development sites in September 2008 referred to appropriate structure sizes. He asked whether the tour comments would be incorporated into the Housing Element. Nancy Anderson responded that the comments would likely be considered when developing the Land Use Element and the Implementation Element.

John Roth and Fred Ekornaas requested that Mr. Dressler, Mr. and Ms. Kissner and other parties concerned about the Lilly Lake properties speak with the Kenosha County Department of Planning & Development to further discuss their issues following the conclusion of the advisory committee meeting.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: Nancy Anderson announced that the next advisory committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. This will allow adequate time for local governments to develop and approve their community land use plan maps. It is expected that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element will be reviewed at that meeting.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Morris, seconded by Dennis Faber, and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC members. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen Lie, Kenosha/Racine Community Planning Educator
Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development

Approved: March 31, 2009