

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

DEKALB COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
(May 29, 2014)

The DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) met on May 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building, Conference Room East, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Commission members Don Partridge, Rich Gentile, Les Bellah, Cheryl Aldis, Brian Gregory, Bill Beverley, Becky Morphey, Martha May, and Misty Haji-Sheikh. Also in attendance were Ed Barsotti, Debbie Armstrong, Nathan Schwartz, Paul Borek, Cindy Capek, and staff members Paul Miller and Rebecca Von Drasek.

1. **Roll Call** -- *Commission members John Fischer, Derek Hiland, Liz Peerboom, Jim Roderick, Linda Swenson, and Anita Sorensen were absent.*
2. **Approval of Agenda** -- *Mr. Bellah moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gregory, and the motion carried unanimously.*
3. **Approval of Minutes** -- *Ms. Aldis moved to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2014 meeting, seconded by Mr. Gentile, and the motion carried unanimously.*
4. **Bicycle Friendly Community Program Presentation**

Ms. Haji-Sheikh presented her efforts to encourage DeKalb County and its municipalities become “Bike Friendly” communities. She described the “PedalPal” program, which is designed to reach that end. She pointed out the recent support from the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District, which adopted Resolution FR-R-2014-2 in support of the program, and called on the Commission to assist with its implementation. She noted that the handouts included within the Commissioner’s packets detailed the various requirements for qualifying as a “Bike Friendly Community”. Ms. Haji-Sheikh introduced Debbie Armstrong, DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Nathan Schwartz, DeKalb County Engineer, and Ed Barsotti, League of Illinois Bicyclists.

Ms. May arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Armstrong explained the benefits of the Bike Friendly in attracting tourists to the area. She highlighted the support of the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau for the PedalPal.org program. She explained the QR Code within the PedalPal stickers would allow bikers to locate bike friendly businesses along their biking routes within the County.

Mr. Schwartz talked to the Commission about ideal and realistic improvements to roadways to encourage safe biking. He highlighted the MPO-DSATS efforts to create connectivity with the

existing routes around DeKalb/Sycamore/Cortland. He also noted that the DeKalb County Highway Department attempts to include a three-foot safety shoulder when improving County roads.

Mr. Barsotti introduced the League of Illinois Bicyclists and its mission to promote safe biking. He provided the Commission with promotional card for a bike safety quiz. Mr. Barsotti talked about the importance for education for both bicyclists and motorists.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh provided the Commissioners with the information for asking business and individuals to join PedalPal.org. She noted that this free program would provide online advertising for businesses that participate, and would tell bikers where they can stop and use the bathroom, rest, or make a phone call.

The Commissioner briefly discussed the importance of becoming a Bike Friendly community, noting that this healthy activity could also be an economic engine. Ms. Haji-Sheikh offered to visit with the municipal boards to further explain and encourage participation in the PedalPal.org program.

5. Concealed Carry Law Presentation

Chief Deputy Dumdie made a presentation to the Commission explaining the Illinois Concealed Carry Law. He provided the Commissioners with an outline of the regulations, and a copy of a portion of the actual legislation. He noted that the Firearm Concealed Carry Act was passed in 2013, and explained that it would take some time to work out all the intricacies of the law and respond to the various legal challenges. He said that the Sheriff's Office reviews application for these permits and has the authority to object to any application for a Concealed Carry Permit when justified. He walked the Commissioners through the list of areas where concealed carry is prohibited, and noted the requirements for signage on buildings. Chief Deputy Dumdie also explained the punishments for violations of the law.

The Commissioners discussed the steps that their organizations had taken to comply with the law.

6. Municipal Development Projects / Issues

Ms. Morphey opened the floor for comment from the Commissioners. She reported that Somonauk had two new house starts.

Ms. Aldis also reported two new house permit applications in Cortland.

7. Next Meeting Date -- The Commission agreed that the next RPC meeting would be held July 31, 2014 at 7 pm in the Gathertorium of the DeKalb County Legislative Center.

8. Adjournment -- *Mr. Beverley moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Aldis, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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Respectfully submitted,

Becky Morphey
Chairman, DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission

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