

Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting

The Land Use and Development Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday December 6, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Gordon, Members, Erickson, Brandt, Buchanan, Pyne and Wendt

Members Absent:

Other Board Members Present:

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning

Others Present: Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Ecology Action Center.

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Chairman Gordon welcomed the new members to the Land Use and Development Committee. He introduced Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning.

Chairman Gordon presented the Minutes of the October 4, 2012 Land Use and Development Committee Meeting for approval. He asked for any additions or corrections.

Motion by Wendt/Erickson to recommend approval of the October 4, 2012 Land Use and Development Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon presented the bills from November 30, 2012 which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Land Use and Development Committee by the County Auditor. He noted that the bills are available to be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office 3-4 day prior to the Committee Meeting. The prepaid total and fund total for November 30, 2012 is \$4,462.90.

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Mr. Buchanan asked if the bills appeared on the website. Mr. Wasson, County Administrator, responded that the bills are on the website once they have been approved.

Motion by Erickson/Buchanan to recommend approval of the November 30, 2012 Land Use and Development Committee Bills.
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon informed the Committee that there are no items for action on the Agenda.

Chairman Gordon continued with Items of Information. The first informational item is the Ecology Action Center Solid Waste and Recycling Education quarterly Report for the third quarter of 2012.

Chairman Gordon asked Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Ecology Action Center to address the Committee. He noted that the Ecology Action Center is funded in part by McLean County, Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington. The principal purpose of the Ecology Action Center is recycling education. Operation Recycle started as a

volunteer organization years ago. It was brought in under the umbrella of McLean County Community Action Agency. As more of the municipalities and smaller communities got involved in municipal recycling, the education part became the Ecology Action Center.

Mr. Brown presented the Ecology Action Center Solid Waste Quarterly Report. He stated that the report details efforts by the Ecology Action Center to provide solid waste and waste reduction services to residents of McLean County, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012. The activities include events, educational programs, public presentations, special events, small grant programs through the Solid Waste Technical Committee, operation of the information center 40 hours a week, and promotion of recycling programs throughout the county. He noted that the Ecology Action Center is the Solid Wasted Agency for the Community.

Chairman Gordon asked if the Committee had any questions. Hearing none, he continued with the Ecology Action Center 2012 Household Hazardous Waste Report detailing the September 29, 2012 Collection at the Interstate Center.

Mr. Brown reported that the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event was an overwhelming success. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) traditionally funded the HHW collection events. McLean County was fortunate to be the recipient of HHW funding for five years, from 2002-2007, receiving 90% of the costs necessary to hold the event. He advised that in 2008 and again in 2009 funding was not available. Aware of the growing need for proper HHW disposal, the Ecology Action Center led a private/public partnership beginning in the fall of 2011 to hold the first-ever locally funded HHW collection event in McLean County. With assistance from the municipalities 51% of the funding was received. Mr. Brown advised that a total of \$143,079 was raised to completely fund the September 29th HHW event.

Mr. Brown advised that the turnout was unprecedented. Nearly 2,000 cars moved through the event. An estimated 3,000 households participated, with a total of 161,896 pound of materials collected and safely disposed. The per household cost was \$50 per house hold. A large turnout was expected and steps were taken to reduce traffic congestion and back up. Nonetheless, the heavy demand for this service resulted in long waits. While no one was denied entry, many could not wait out the long lines. He added that given the Interstate Center's capacity and the number of vehicles that participated, the only way to better meet the needs of the Community for HHW disposal is to offer the service on a more regular basis.

Mr. Brown stated that the EAC is working with its municipal partners on a plan to address this need on a more regular basis in the future.

Chairman Gordon asked Mr. Brown to explain to the Committee how information was gathered on site during the event.

Mr. Brown advised that as part of an effort to better understand the community's awareness of the event as well as to help generate more funding, donations were taken and a short survey was completed addressing demographic questions. \$16,000 in donations was collected at the event. To help with traffic 20% of the attendees were bringing materials from more than one house hold. He added that the event was advertised as a McLean County resident only event; however no one was denied service. The media was the main source for information.

Ms. Pyne asked if the media advertisements were sponsorships. Mr. Brown responded that some were donated and some were bought.

Mr. Buchanan asked if, due to the long lines, the probability would be for multiple events in the future. He asked if the municipalities have included funding in their budgets for future events. Mr. Brown noted that the plan is to provide the service more regularly. This was the first event in 5 years. He stated that the Solid Waste Technical Committee is looking at long term plans for future events coupled with reduced generation of hazardous materials. Educational programs encourage more usage of alternative materials.

Chairman Gordon asked Mr. Wasson, County Administrator, to address the budget question. Mr. Wasson reported that the County has not budgeted in FY 2013 for a HHW event. The Solid Waste Technical Committee is working with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to find the proper approach in funding the HHW activities on a more regular basis acknowledging that 5 years is too long.

Ms. Brandt asked if the donations collected the day of the event are included in the graphics of the report. Mr. Brown responded that they are included in the 26% of individual or family contributions. He reported that the funding of the 2012 HHW event was:

- Individual or family contributions 26%
- City of Bloomington 17%
- McLean County 17%
- Town of Normal 17%
- Sponsorships 10%
- We care Twin Cities Half Marathon 9%
- EAC, Business, Church, and Community 1%

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Ms. Pyne noted the great job done in education by the distribution of the “Local Places to Dispose of Some Household Hazardous Wastes” to all attending the event.

Mr. Buchanan added that the event was very impressive.

Chairman Gordon recognized Mr. Brown for his 5th anniversary as Director of the Ecology Action Center and for the undertaking of the ½ Marathon the day of the event. He stated that even with the long lines the event was well organized down to the extremely efficient people unloading the materials.

Mr. Brown advised that there was not a single car turned away. Every car in line was serviced. Some were not accommodated because they could not wait out the long line.

Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other information to come before the Committee. The next meeting of the Land Use and Development Committee will be January 3, 2013

Chairman Gordon adjourned the Committee Meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary