

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Executive Board Minutes
211 N. Gear Avenue, West Burlington, IA 52655
April 27, 2017

Members Present: Brent Schleisman, Mark Huston, Mike Ash and Gary Folluo
Members Absent: Hans Trousil
Staff Present: Mike Norris, Jeff Hanan, Roger Keller, Lori Gilpin, and Debbie Laughlin

Call to order at 12:08 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Motion by Folluo to approve the April 27, 2017 agenda, second by Ash. All Ayes, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Norris highlighted his director report and stated that building maintenance projects for the upcoming year are underway. The parking lot striping has been completed, and tile sealing and polishing has been scheduled in the atrium. Norris attended the Iowa Fertilizer Company's official ribbon cutting on April 19th. The CEO of Iowa Fertilizer's parent company mentioned SEIRPC in his address. The plant will employ around 200 and will generate \$25 million in payroll annually. Maintenance spending is also projected to be \$25 million per year, directing much of the money to local companies. Norris plans to attend Southeast Iowa Days in Washington D.C. in June. Staff is working to close out a strong FY2017 by capturing payments from services and contracts. Motion by Huston to accept the consent agenda, second by Folluo. All Ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Housing Update: Norris stated that SEIRPC is looking into ideas for new housing initiatives and projects. SEIRPC has historically rehabilitated housing with outside grant funds, and upper story and single family units are typically affected. We have been talking about four possibilities. 1) Community Foundation Partnerships: There would be a new c3 organization established, with SEIRPC managing the development process. The City of Keokuk would assist through acquiring nuisance lots. The Keokuk Community Foundation is supportive and can grant the new c3 donated funds to capitalize the initiative. 2) Lot Development Model: Cities in Iowa can acquire persistent nuisance properties through Chapter 657 of the Iowa Code. SEIRPC can, through its non-profit housing development partner, Southeast Iowa Housing, Inc., develop these lots as infill homes, or rehabilitate the homes. Mount Pleasant partnered with Housing, Inc. to successfully pilot the program. 3.) Private Assistance: SEIRPC can offer assistance to private developers and local governments to develop or rehabilitate housing. 4) Prison Built Housing: SEIRPC is active in assisting Iowa Prison Industries to develop an offender-built and apprenticeship housing program. Though this program has the Iowa Prison Industries

and other entities excited about this project, funding is still the main issue as \$3 million is needed to get the program started. No action Necessary.

2. SIREPA Update: Norris stated that since late 2013, SEIRPC has served as the administrative entity for Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority (SIREPA). He highlighted various accomplishments that have been made. Future development includes understanding and imagining what the organization can do that is more than just freight related, such as educational opportunities, or involvement with the new Fort Madison Bridge car deck, for example. Presently, and in the near future, SEIRPC is working closely with SIREPA board members to position the organization to participate in future projects in Lee County. No action Necessary.

New Business:

1. Public Hearing: FY2018 Consolidated Transit Application: Resolution #122-2017 Authorizing FY2018 Consolidated Transit Application: Schleisman opened the Public Hearing at 12:24 p.m. Keller, SEIBUS Transit Director, stated that the Consolidated Transit Fund Application process is an annual event through which SEIRPC applies for state and federal public transit subsidy and allows SEIRPC to provide public transportation to southeast Iowa. He further stated that this application shows the Iowa Department of Transportation how we anticipate spending the money they will be giving to us. Keller reported that we are applying for \$318,453 of State Transit Assistance funds, for operating and capital assistance; and \$298,175 of FTA Section 5311 funds for operating and capital assistance. In addition, we are applying funds for replacement of four 176" light duty buses in the total project cost of \$350,800 (at 85% / 15% split), \$298,180 from Federal Transit Assistance Funds and \$52,620 from local funding. SEIRPC also plans to apply for the replacement of one 138" light duty bus #063 and one conversion van #022 for a total project cost of \$165,200 (85% / 15% split) coming from FTA Section 5339 Funds (\$140,420) and from local funding (\$24,780). Schleisman asked for comments from the public, of which there were none, and no further comments were made. Ash made a motion to close the Public Hearing: FY2018 Consolidated Transit Application: Resolution #122-2017 Authorizing FY2018 Consolidated Transit Application at 12:27 p.m., second by Folluo. A roll call vote was taken, all Ayes, motion carried. Ash made a motion to approve Resolution #122-2017 Authorizing FY2018 Consolidated Transit Application, second by Folluo. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.
2. CEDS Kickoff: Norris stated that the 2018 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee met on April 18, 2017 to officially begin the CEDS update process. Staff gave a presentation and they discussed how CEDS is used in the region. The CEDS is updated every five years, and is important for several reasons, such as: 1) Maintains Economic Development District Status for Southeast Iowa; 2) Serves as the Long Range Transportation Plan for Southeast Iowa; 3) Provides weight to ideas and strategies for funding opportunities; 4) Creates opportunities for cross discussion among groups that don't typically work together; 5) Creates opportunities for discussion of big ideas, which may or may not happen at this time due to funding

constraints. The committee roster was shared with the board. Mike Ash is chairman of the committee, which has been pared down in numbers from the 2012 CEDS Committee. The CEDS schedule did not get included in the packet. Next steps are to roll out the CEDS Survey to residents, businesses, partner organizations, and member governments. No action necessary.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ash.
Second by Huston. All Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Laughlin

Mike Norris, Executive Director

Mark Huston, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____