

**Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Full Board Minutes
211 N. Gear Avenue, West Burlington, IA 52655
September 26, 2013**

Members Present: Brent Schleisman, Dr. Michael Ash, Steve Bisenius, David File, Bob Beck, Klay Edwards, Andy Truitt, Greg Moeller, Michael O'Connor, and Mark Hempen

Members Absent: Gary Folluo, Sue Frice, Hans Trousil, Mark Huston, Byron Smith, Chris Ball, Bob Hesler, Jim Davidson, and Jim Howell

Guest Present: Nancy Snaadt, Alliant Energy

Staff Present: Mike Norris, Debbie Laughlin, Jeff Hanan, Bob Kuskowski, Lori Gilpin, and Zach James

Call to order at 12:05 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Motion by Hempen to approve the September 26, 2013 agenda, second by File. All Ayes, motion passed.

Port Authority Check Presentation: Nancy Snaadt, Alliant Energy, stated that Alliant Energy is supporting economic development through presenting a check for planning assistance to the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority. She stated that in 2011 Lee County Economic Development wanted to do a study on site evaluations and was approved for \$5,000 for that study. Nancy encouraged others to look into other regional planning partnerships and stated there are dollars available for website development, engineering studies, etc.

Susan Coffey – 20th Anniversary: Norris stated that Susan recently hit her 20th anniversary with SEIRPC, and that she is the longest tenured employee. He stated that she has held a variety of positions with SEIRPC with the latest being Grant Administrator. He further stated that she has seen many changes including two floods, and that her service has been critical to delivering outside funds to SEIRPC members and partners. Susan was presented with a framed certificate and gift. Susan expressed her appreciation and stated that she would not be able to do her job without support from the Cities and Counties, and SEIRPC staff working with her.

Consent Agenda Approval

Norris stated that staff is looking at a power washing program this fall for the building to remove buildup stains and residues. He further stated that the 3rd Annual SEIRPC Golf Outing / Fund Raiser for Great River Housing was a success with 22 teams playing golf, and 29 paid hole sponsorships, and that we exceeded our goal raising \$6,600 net proceeds. Norris stated that he received many positive comments, and that it may move a week earlier or later next year to avoid a conflict with the League of Cities. Motion by File to accept the consent agenda, second by Beck. All Ayes, motion passed.

Old Business

1. Department Reports: Hanan highlighted the Development report noting that after securing \$90,000 in local match, the GRHTF grant application in October will leverage an additional \$360,000 to be used for owner occupied rehab, down payment assistance (which has become very popular), and for assistance to developers that will sell to LMI applicants. Hanan continued to state that a new marketing plan for the RLF is underway and annual site visits have been completed. Two CDBG applications received funding. James stated that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of Flint Bottom Road and Prairie Grove Road to commemorate the 8 mile section of Flint River Trail just north of the SEIRPC building. SEIRPC staff have submitted or are processing several grant applications and the Old Fort Battlefield Research and Preservation Plan was awarded \$51,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program. Kuskowski reported that SEIBUS provided 21,790 rides for the Old Threshers Reunion, a 12.4% increase from last year, and that the Fort Madison Rodeo numbers were up over 40% with 1,237 rides. In addition 8 new riders have been implemented from Keokuk to The Iowa Home Base Service in Montrose, with more riders to be added soon from Fort Madison to Montrose. No Action Necessary.
2. SEIRPC 40th Anniversary: Norris stated that SEIRPC has reached its 40th anniversary, and was incorporated in 1973 by local governments. Individual communities could not provide their own services in critical areas of grant writing, planning, and administration, so they worked together to provide what they needed regionally. Norris added that over the years, SEIRPC has diversified its services adding transportation funding and planning, revolving loan funds, environmental planning (brownfields), land use administration, economic development, public transit, and comprehensive housing services. The greatest measurement of SEIRPC's impact over the last 40 years is that it has brought \$220+ million outside funds into the region to assist local governments, businesses, and regional partners. Mugs, tablets, pens, and letterhead have been provided to commemorate the anniversary. No Action Necessary.
3. CHDO Update: Norris stated that the Southeast Iowa Housing board (CHDO) met September 19, 2013 and reviewed matters surrounding the effort to become a certified CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization). IFA news related that they do not allow CHDOs to work on down payment assistance (acquisition-rehab) projects for single family homes and that based on HOME rules, these projects must be sold in nine months, and if not sold in this time period, must be rented. An effort by HUD has led IFA to restrict CHDO activities to rental projects only. The advantages of combining SIH and Great River Housing were also discussed and SIH board members then directed SEIRPC staff to approach the Great River Housing, Inc. board about combining the two entities to be a dual CHDO/Housing Trust Fund. Norris continued to state that advantages to combining into one organization would be to enable harnessing additional funds and make decisions to maximize the funds,

while having only one set of books, one board and one set of meetings. South West Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) has successfully certified their regional Housing Trust Fund as a CHDO, and will serve as a model as we move forward. No action necessary.

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New Business:

1. Annual Report FY2013: Norris highlighted the Annual Report which was given to all board members. He stated that in FY2013, \$12.32 million was secured by SEIRPC from outside sources for use in Southeast Iowa, which is a 152:1 return on investment from member dues. Additional copies will be sent to our member cities and counties, and will be available to view on our website. No action necessary.
2. University Partnerships: Norris stated that in an environment with depleting resources, partnerships become an important part of project development and service provision. In the past, the University of Iowa, through its School of Urban and Regional Planning, has brought students to Southeast Iowa to work on important community projects. Norris, as chair of IARC (Iowa Association of Regional Councils) has had the opportunity to work with ISU Extension on a joint position that would work for both organizations. Norris encouraged board members to keep university partnerships in mind the next time they are thinking of large projects in the region. No action necessary.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting by O'Connor, second by Truitt. All Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Laughlin

Mike Norris, Executive Director

Mark Huston, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____