

## Meeting Minutes

### City Plan Commission Minutes

#### (COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING)

Monday, November 22, 2004 - 3:00 p.m. PRESENT: Plan Commission Members: Ch. Mayor Wescott; Karen Aldinger; Lois Feldman; Ann Shannon; Dave Sowieja; Fred Steffen

Other Committee Members: Ald. Stroik, Rackow, Moore, Sevenich; Liz McDonald; Mark Seiler;

ALSO PRESENT: Comm. Dev. Dir. John Gardner; Police Chief Morris; Co. Planning Dir. Chuck Kell; Don Jankowski, Ch. Of Po. Co. Space & Properties Committee; Michael Pryor

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1. Approval of the October 25, 2004 Minutes
2. County-city Partnership - Justice Center
3. Comprehensive Planning - Economic Development
1. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2004 MINUTES

Fred Steffen moved, seconded by Lois Feldman, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2004 meeting. Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

## 2. COUNTY-CITY PARTNERSHIP - JUSTICE CENTER

Ch. Wescott noted this is an informational item for the Plan Commission and City alderpersons. The city and county have been working on an informal basis regarding the future needs of law enforcement. The Space and Properties Committee has requested the city join with the county in reviewing a new justice center which could include sufficient land for a police and sheriff's center. He has recommended that the city pursue this option.

Don Jankowski, County Space and Properties Committee, stated this is the first phase of a 5-phase plan with construction possibly in 2008. We are currently looking at what the justice center will be and offices will be in the building. In 6-8 months, we will be looking at where it would be located and the city will have to make a decision as to whether they (the police) will stay with the program and where the study will go from there. No decisions have been made. The county will cover the cost of the initial phase.

Police Chief Morris noted the city he came from, Rockford Illinois, went through a similar process. In that process, the city and county did not join together and the county is forced to go forward. They are designing a building that is not meeting everyone's needs. It is really important for us to do this. We are not committed but we need to all sit down together and work on this.

Lois Feldman noted the justice center has to be located in the County Seat which would have to be somewhere in the city.

## 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING - Economic Development

John Gardner reviewed the attached economic activity information with regard to labor force, earnings, and employment and noted the goal today is to complete the strengths and weaknesses lists in Section 6.5.

### Section 6.5

A. Categories or types of new businesses and/or industries that are desired by the community:

B. Community strengths for attracting/retaining business and industry:

Diversified economy

Good Education - Public/Private - K-University and Mid-state

Pool of potential workers from UWSP

Broad range of Cultural activities

Central location in state - community distance from urban areas & central location for convention facilities

Quality of life - natural beauty of city, indoor/outdoor recreational facilities, access to affordable medical care, relative safety

Excellent Transportation network

High Work ethic

Abundant natural resources

Existing Clean industries

Cultural diversity

Price of land - relatively inexpensive

C. Community weaknesses for attracting/retaining business and industry:

High water table - north/west - bedrock North

Need better link between education and employees

Need to get our share of State investments

Stronger voice from community/region aimed at Madison

Not a "cool" community

Cuts to UW budget

Labor force availability

Need more land

Access to venture capital

Lack of private large foundations

Lack of incentive money

Budget reductions to public employers

Large amounts of tax exempt land not on city tax rolls

Direct Access to major metropolitan areas/airports

Goals:

1) Creation and retention of jobs

Identify emerging businesses/technologies

Upgrading work skills

Identifying expansion potential of existing employers

Connecting existing employers with incentive programs

Eliminate government red tape  
Create better networking between businesses and education  
2) Increase tax base  
Maintain the livability of the city  
Create family-supporting jobs  
Maintain diversified economy  
Maintain diversified tax base  
Redevelopment of older commercial/industrial/residential sites and develop resources to do it  
Central clearing house for economic development resources  
Encourage unique retail support of Main Street Program  
Economic health of city is critical to entire county  
Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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