

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

**Meeting Room 2, Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Betz, Knott, McGinty

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Carol Ammons (County Board Member), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Robert Rich (University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs), Mark Shelden (County Clerk)

CALL TO ORDER

McGinty called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Betz, Knott, and McGinty were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Knott to approve the agenda; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Knott to approve the Strategic Planning Subcommittee minutes of April 17, 2008; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

McGinty summarized the values discussion held by the subcommittee at the last meeting. Rich recommended any reorganization be deliberated consistently with the strategic plan because of an article he read in the *News-Gazette*. Knott said the discussion about downsizing the County Board could be a part of the strategic planning process or purely be a policy question for the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee outside of the strategic plan. Rich said that something as fundamental as changing the County Board's size should be done parallel to the strategic planning process, in his opinion. The subcommittee discussed this issue and the last meeting. Rich stressed the importance of developing a strategic plan framework to hopefully guide planning and decision-making at the County. The process is as important as the output and the output has to be dynamic to avoid it being shelved. One way to make a strategic plan irrelevant is to take key issues and declare they are outside of the process. The subcommittee confirmed they did not want the process to be irrelevant.

Moving on to the values, Rich asked where responsiveness to the public comes in. Betz thought it was covered in a broad way by accountability. Rich said accountability can mean many things and challenged the subcommittee to think about what they want to communicate to the County Board and the outside world. Rich suggested responsiveness and transparency as items to consider. Betz asked what is meant by transparency. Rich said he means it as being able to understand the decision-making processes in the County by someone who wants to understand it. A citizen should be able to look at a document and understand how the County Board votes or how the budget process works. One of the biggest criticisms of political bodies is that the real decision-making process is not what appears on paper. The subcommittee discussed the terms accountability, responsiveness, prosperity, efficiency, and teamwork. They further discussed how to express the values with the most clarity. Rich suggested preparing a short paragraph that introduces the values. He complimented the subcommittee that the values statement is a big improvement over the previous document. The subcommittee should be sure that the mission statement and objectives are consistent with the values. Rich advised the County Board to make the distinction between a Christmas tree-type wish list and a strategic plan for its vision. A strategic plan is things that can be accomplished because the items on it are things the Board has control over or a direct influence on. McGinty asked how the mission statement would develop. Rich said the values are the first step and the next step is vision. The vision is where the County Board wants the County to be at the end of the day. The vision should have both a substantive element and a process element to it. The strategic plan is the map of how the County will reach it vision. The subcommittee discussed the visions and further development of the strategic plan. The subcommittee listened to Sheldon's feedback as a department head on the values and plan. Busey explained the department heads have engaged in planning and the missing link has been the lack of a County Board strategic plan to link the departments' plans to. The departments have provided mission statements, operating statements, and performance indicators. The County Board strategic plan will provide some direction on where the County is going for the departments. Sheldon emphasized the importance of collaboration amongst departments. The subcommittee agreed to meet again within a couple and weeks and scheduled another meeting with Rich in a month. McGinty felt Rich's help was extremely valuable for the long-term benefit of the County. Busey asked if the subcommittee wanted any adjustment to the values based on the discussion today. Betz argued that the term responsiveness should be defined very carefully and not mean the County Board responds to the loudest section of the constituents, as the constituents do not always have all the facts the way the County Board members do. Knott saw responsiveness on a day-to-day transaction level at the County offices. Busey suggested "responsibility to public," which Betz preferred. The subcommittee will consider this. The subcommittee and audience continued to discuss the language of the values.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Secretary

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.