

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Betz, Brendan McGinty (Chair), Alan Nudo, Jonathan Schroeder

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Ammons

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Administrative Assistant), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Patti Petrie (County Board Member)

CALL TO ORDER

McGinty called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Betz to approve the agenda; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Betz to approve the Strategic Planning Committee March 9, 2011 minutes; seconded by Nudo. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

REVIEW & ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS UNDER CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Busey had provided multiple documents to the committee after the last meeting regarding the development of the current Strategic Plan's goals and a comprehensive list of goals initially

reviewed by the County Board. McGinty reviewed the values, vision, and mission developed by the previous Strategic Planning Committee. He noted many of the goals are a work in progress under the current administration. Busey added that a capital improvement plan is being developed in conjunction with the Facilities Director and is a priority for this fiscal year.

Betz wanted the County Board to be thinking about how to address the future obsolescence of the downtown Correctional Center because any solution will involve a lot of planning. A needs assessment study, as well as architectural and engineering services, will be needed so the Board can reach the point of deciding what exactly it wants to do with the facility. Busey stated it would be possible to start repaying bonds issued for a facility out of the Public Safety Sales Taxes beginning in 2015.

McGinty summarized that the intention from the last meeting was to provide the current County Board with a synopsis of what has been accomplished since the Strategic Plan was approved. Then the committee could receive input on issues like the downtown jail in order to construct a list of priorities.

Betz spoke about the racial diversity of the County workforce versus the racial diversity of Champaign County. Busey explained that one issue which impacts the statistics is that there has been virtually no turnover in County positions over the last 2-3 years and the County cut 40 positions. Betz said the County Board needs to acknowledge that there is a scarcity of local minority contractors that could be hired for projects of the size and scope the County undertakes. He felt the Board should also define what is meant by "local contractor." He acknowledged some real progress has been made with the subcontractors. The committee continued to discuss the racial diversity of County departments.

Betz remarked that priorities or requests from departments will have to be framed within the terms of a budget prognosis that shows no increase for the next 6 years. It would be unrealistic to ask department heads for their wish lists when there is no possibility the County will have the money to fund such initiatives. He wanted anything sent to the departments asking for goals to include language about the budget. McGinty noted the Strategic Plan talks about cost effectiveness and fiscal solvency, so those guiding principles are already present. He liked the idea of asking the department heads for their dreams and then having this committee pare those down to a list of priorities. The committee discussed how to incorporate feedback from elected and appointed officials in their deliberations. Discussion continued over how the first set of goals evolved and feedback was sought from departments. A set of issues was then forwarded to the specific standing committee that could best address those issues and incorporated into the agendas at the request of the Strategic Planning Committee.

McGinty asked for suggestions on the potential next steps. Betz wanted the department heads to be able to weigh the issues by importance or list their requests in order of importance. Nudo expressed that the County Board may have to weigh the issues itself because a department head could be resistant to an issue the Board and other departments consider important. He wanted this committee to have the necessary leeway to give input when prioritizing issues. The committee agreed with Nudo's suggestion because the final document ultimately comes from the

County Board. Nudo suggested there were some things the County could look at to encourage economic development as part of the Strategic Plan

Busey recommended the County Board should develop its global priorities for the whole organization before asking department heads to submit their project wish lists. This would help the Board to determine what and where the projects fit into the overall plan. She shared an example regarding the utilization of IT resources. The County has the opportunity following the budget cuts to develop with a really good structure for managing growth instead of taking IT requests as they come. The policy-making authority rests with the County Board and County Board should communicate its priorities to departments.

Petrie wanted the committee to look at the macro issues she felt were not being addressed and to require more transparency by other entities whose members are appointed by the County Board, such as the Mental Health Board, CUUATS, and RPC. McGinty said the macro issues are shown in the Strategic Plan. The idea of today's meeting was to review the plan and edit it as necessary. Betz commented the County Board members could encourage other entities to have documents, like their full agenda packets, available online, but they could not mandate it. Busey pointed out that the Administrative Services Department is helping the Mental Health Board Office to set up a way to post more Mental Health Board and Developmental Disabilities Board documents on its website. Betz said the committee needs to focus on setting action items that the County Board can actually achieve.

Nudo wanted to measure the current collections process in the court system. Betz pointed out that some of the fines and fees not collected may be a result of people being in jail. Nudo suggested a system be developed to acknowledge the realistic nature of what will be collected.

Busey explained an idea to ask every department head for a five-year plan during the budget process. For example, the budget projections of one department in the criminal justice system can depend on another department in that system. This is not been objectively documented in the past. Petrie asked if the departments had ever done any long-range planning. Busey said they had not, but had done one-year budget planning. McGinty agreed with Busey's approach. The committee discussed how the County Board might have any impact on the quality of education or public health care services in Champaign County. The committee also discussed communication with employees about initiatives and economic development.

DISCUSSION – NEXT STEPS

In debating what the next step should be, Busey suggested gathering information on accomplishments at the County Board, department heads, and elected officials level in order to give the committee a comprehensive list of accomplishments under the current Strategic Plan and the committee concurred. McGinty offered to draft a summary statement of accomplishments based on the Strategic Plan with Busey's help. The committee agreed with this proposal.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee decided the next meeting would be held on April 27, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

McGinty adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Assistant

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