

VILLAGE OF NORTH UTICA

801 South Clark Street
North Utica, IL 61373

Meeting of the Planning Commission
July 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Appearance Teska & Associates:
 - Discussion regarding updating the Village Comprehensive Plan
- V. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from 6-04-15
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Old / New Business
- VIII. Adjournment

Posted 6-30-15

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MINUTES

At 7:03 pm the meeting was called to Order by Chairman Tom Guttilla who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present at the meeting was Village Clerk Laurie Gbur and Planning Commission Members Doug Gift, Dennis Hamilton, Warren Munson, Roy Chapman and Matt Cetwinski. Absent from the meeting was Member Bill Fry.

The meeting was held as a Kick-off meeting to begin the updating of the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Mike Hoffman, Teska & Associates, began by stating that he was very glad his company was chosen to update the plan. He loves the Utica / Starved Rock area and looks forward to spending time in the community and interacting with the people.

Everyone attending the meeting was asked to introduce themselves and speak at bit about their background including those seated in the audience.

Mr. Hoffman then asked everyone to identify their favorite things that they like about Utica.

Member Cetwinski – a very family oriented community

Member Chapman – a friendly town; talking to people and being able to move between groups of people

Member Munson – a good quality of life

Chairman Guttilla – a welcoming community and a great history

Clerk Gbur – a lot to offer in a small community; schools, parks, emergency services

Member Gift – a friendliness throughout the community where everyone comes together

Member Hamilton – a small town feeling with a sense of family

Resident Linda Moyer-Halm – a small town feeling

Trustee Schweickert – its' uniqueness; the history and having the State Park so close

Mayor Jereb – the ability to work out of the area but to be able to live and raise a family here

News Reporter Kate Reynolds – a very safe and friendly community

Different challenges in the community were then discussed:

Flooding is a real concern. Utica has flooding issues with Clark Creek and with the Illinois River.

The controversy of the Sand Mining Industry has been an issue more recently.

The I & M Canal needs to be cleaned and this could become a tourist attraction. Long term use of the Canal should be considered.

Undeveloped areas also need to be addressed. There is property that is vacant as of a result of the tornado that needs to be developed in some way.

Keeping businesses vibrant so that they can get through the slow seasons and survive.

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Infrastructure upgrades and capturing the potential of our community is also needed. We need to seek funding that would be necessary to be able to do some of the projects that are needed.

A balance between industry, business and residential living is something that should be considered.

Once different attributes and challenges were defined by the group, a schedule for updating the plan was discussed. Teska proposed a schedule that would complete the Comprehensive Plan in early February 2016. There will be a series of meetings, updates, community invitations to participate, open discussion with local businesses and a focus on tourism. A destination assessment will also be performed sometime in October. There are many events coming throughout the fall season that will enable Teska to obtain a broad overview of the people visiting the community and the things that keep them coming back.

The Planning Commission thanked Mr. Hoffman for attending the meeting and stated that they look forward to the process for updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Minutes: It was then motioned by Member Gift, seconded by Member Hamilton to approve the Minutes of the 6-4-15 meeting.

All in favor

Motion Carried

Public Comment: NONE

Old / New Business: NONE

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. Motion made by Member Hamilton, seconded by Member Munson.

All in favor

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Gbur

Village Clerk