

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022
Via Zoom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

Name		Representation	Name		Representation
Joe Bowes	P	Housing	Marcus Riehl	P	Natural Environment
Fernando de Aragón	P	Transportation	Leslie Schill	P	Education #2
Jordan Decker	P	Energy	Kathy Schlather	P	Human Services
Yamila Fournier	P	Built Environment	Andy Zepp	A	Land Preserv./Public Land Mgmt.
George Frantz	E	Agriculture			
David Herrick	P	Facilities/Infrastructure	Deborah Dawson	P	Legislative Liaison
Susan Holland	P	Cultural/Historic Preservation			
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)	Others Present		
Ernie McClatchie	P	Education #1	Katie Borgella	P	Commissioner
Heather McDaniel	P	Economic Development	Scott Doyle	P	Associate Planner
Thomas Knipe	E	Business	Kristin McCarthy	P	Administrative Assistant
Gay Nicholson	P	At-Large	Megan McDonald	P	Deputy Commissioner
C.J. Randall	P	Local Planning (non-urban)			

Guests: Anne Koreman

Call to Order: Chair Leslie Schill called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Privilege of the Floor: None

Agenda Review/Changes: None

Discussion: Draft 2022 DPS Work Program and 2021 Accomplishments – Katie Borgella, DPS Commissioner

Katie shared the Planning and Sustainability Department's list of accomplishments for 2021 and key components of the department's draft 2022 work program. Highlights from the department's 2021 work include the Resiliency & Recovery Plan and integrated Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Cayuga Blueway Trail, Tompkins County Broadband Study, Harmful Algal Bloom Study, hiring of the County's Chief Sustainability Officer, and more. The 2022 draft work program features key initiatives such as a countywide code enforcement study, a traffic calming and control initiative, expanding incentive areas for housing development within the County's designated development focus areas, and broadband expansion to underserved communities, as well as several other projects. She also relayed that staff will be reporting to three legislative committees (Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality; Health and Human Services; and Facilities & Infrastructure) and plan to collaborate with the County's Chief Diversity Officer, Deanna Carrithers, to ensure the department approaches its work with a lens of equity. Moreover, the County is planning to conduct a staff compensation study. The Q&A discussion covered updates to the County's green facilities and green fleet policies, a development timeline for Center for Government building, potential impact of infrastructure bill and other federal and state funding opportunities on the work program, researching model code enforcement regulations from other areas, possible sale of County renewable energy certificates (RECs), affordable housing, and other issues. Katie expressed a renewed commitment to involving PAB more holistically in shaping the department's initiatives and projects in 2022.

Report/Discussion: 2021 TC 239 Development Review Summary – Scott Doyle, DPS

Scott provided an overview of the Planning and Sustainability Department's work in 2021 in relation to NYS General Municipal Law 239 review and shared a quick refresher on the origins and purpose of the 239 review process. Last year, the department handled 102 reviews, the majority for the Town and City of Ithaca, covering 21

land use ordinances, one comprehensive plan, and 80 project reviews (e.g. site plans, variances, special permits, subdivisions). Scott shared that of the 102 reviews, 12 resulted in recommended modification letters, which require a supermajority of the local discretionary board to overrule. His presentation and the subsequent Q&A discussion covered several topics. These included the importance of communicating regularly with local municipal representatives and keeping relevant County legislators apprised, the rate of municipal follow-through with recommended modifications, average staff time-frame for reviews (two weeks), impact of draft FEMA flood maps on 239 process, and possible revisiting of inter-municipal exemption agreements, which exempt certain actions of a more local administrative nature from referral.

Member Items – The NYS Climate Action Council has released its Draft Scoping Plan for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act for public comment. Fernando will be commenting on the Transportation chapter.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm.