

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Via Zoom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

Name		Representation	Name		Representation
Joe Bowes	P	Housing	Gay Nicholson	P	At-Large
Fernando de Aragón	P	Transportation	C.J. Randall	P	Local Planning (non-urban)
Jordan Decker	P	Energy	Marcus Riehl	P	Natural Environment
Yamila Fournier	P	Built Environment	Leslie Schill	P	Education #2
George Frantz	P	Agriculture	Vacant	N/A	Human Services
David Herrick	E	Facilities/Infrastructure	Andy Zepp	E	Land Preserv./Public Land Mgmt.
Susan Holland	E	Cultural/Historic Preservation			
David Kay	E	Local Planning (urban)	Others Present		
Thomas Knipe	A	Business	Terry Carroll	P	Chief Sustainability Officer
Anne Koreman	P	County Legislature	Joan Jurkowich	P	Planning Administrator
Ernie McClatchie	P	Education #1	Kristin McCarthy	P	County Staff
Heather McDaniel	A	Economic Development	Megan McDonald	P	Deputy Commissioner

Guests: Liddy Bargar

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair Leslie Schill called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. No changes to the agenda. Guest Liddy Bargar introduced herself.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (April 12, 2022): The draft April 2022 (motion by Anne Koreman, second by C.J. Randall) meeting minutes were approved by all the members present.

Report/Discussion: DPS Comments on Draft Disadvantaged Communities Criteria – Joan Jurkowich, DPS

Joan reported on work-in-progress by the Planning and Sustainability Department to submit comments on the NYS Climate Action Council's Draft Disadvantaged Communities Criteria. She started by giving an overview of the state-level initiative to propose a climate justice communities definition as part of the broader Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act as well as the workings of the Climate Justice Working Group, whose members include staff from NYSDERDA, DEC, and other state agencies and stakeholders. After emphasizing the department's support for the state's efforts and acknowledging the difficulty of applying statewide data to identify Disadvantaged Communities, she shared highlights from the department's proposed comments, including concerns with weighting and potential double-counting of certain criteria, excessive parsing of certain data points, such as race and ethnicity, and issues with using Census tract (versus Census block) data in rural areas, which can lead to small pockets of poverty not being adequately captured. Another key area of concern for the department includes the proposed annual updating of the Disadvantaged Communities map (the department recommends the timeframe be lengthened to three years given the volatility of certain data). Q&A discussion covered differences between Disadvantaged Communities and DEC Environmental Justice Communities, impact of DAC designation on state grant funding eligibility and resource prioritization once CLCPA is implemented, qualitative versus quantitative ranking of data, benefits to downstate versus upstate communities, among other topics. PAB members were invited to reach out with further comments and questions.

DPS Staff Updates

Terry gave an overview of the department's comments on the NYS Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan, reporting that the County Legislature passed a resolution in support of both the scoping plan itself and the department's comments. Discussion touched on impact of the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act on grants and other funding resources. Terry cited the Restore Mother Nature Bond Act as an example. In closing, he offered to share the department's comments with interested PAB members and encouraged other organizations to submit them if interested as well. Katie Borgella is on vacation and sends her regrets. DPS has new two new staff members starting June 27 and hopes to introduce them at the next PAB meeting.

Member Items

Members shared news regarding the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council's 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Draft, which is out for public review, as well Cornell's Drinking Water Source Protection Plan and plans for the first utility-scale (160 MW) solar project in the towns of Lansing and Groton.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:38pm. All were in favor.