

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

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

Guests: None

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair C.J. Randall called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. Members were asked about meeting earlier for the October meeting due to a scheduling conflict with the County Legislature's Expanded Budget Committee. An informal poll was started in the chat regarding two possible new times. County staffer Kristin McCarthy will follow up with results after the meeting and send a revised calendar invite to everyone.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (July 2023): The draft July 2023 minutes were approved (moved by Anne Koreman, seconded by Yamila Fournier) as submitted.

Commissioner's Report – Katie Borgella, DPS

Katie reported on recent department activities. These included work on a NYS Office of Community Renewal Community Development Block Grant to help fund the Tompkins County Healthy Homes Rehab IV local program, with Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services serving as the subrecipient; collaborating with City of Ithaca and other partners on Drinking Water Source Protection Planning, which included submitting a NYS consolidated funding application (CFA) for stream corridor analysis and flood risk assessment; and a CFA application for Empire State Market New York to give the Ithaca Trails website a facelift. She also reported on a series of heat pump and other trainings (model solar, battery storage) Hailley Delisle coordinated as part of Climate Energy Communities program, in particular sharing lessons learned from heat pump trainings which were a collaboration with NYSERDA.

Report/Discussion: County Comprehensive Plan – Review of Energy Strategy – Hailley Delisle, DPS

Hailley reported to the board to solicit feedback on review of the Tompkins County Energy Strategy. She started her report by giving a quick recap of relationship between the County Comprehensive Plan and its related strategies and shared factors staff is keeping in mind when determining whether to update a strategy before or after the comprehensive plan – e.g., has the information on which the strategy was based changed substantially, or is better information now available? Topics covered in report and discussion included timeline with Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals; prioritizing strategies for which funding will be available and exploring state and federal funding streams; policy considerations; relationship to County Energy Roadmap and Energy and Economic Development Strategy; NYS land-use authority; collaboration with local municipalities;

Business Energy Advisors program; disadvantaged communities criteria; and more. Hailley thanked everyone for the discussion. Further comments can be sent to her via email.

Report: Climate Smart Communities Recertification Update – *Hailley Delisle, DPS*

Hailley reported on the Climate Smart Communities recertification process and provided background information on the program, which is run through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Program involves local governments earning points for taking actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help their communities adapt to a changing climate. She explained the various certification levels; County previously received silver certification (highest level) and hopes to repeat this feat (minimum number of points for silver is 300 and County submitted 453). Application for recertification was submitted in early July and staff should receive a decision from NYSDEC by September.

Member Items

City of Ithaca is recruiting members for its Planning & Development Board. The City's Sustainability and Climate Justice Commission is fully appointed. Commission may appoint advisors as needed – they don't need to be city residents. Emphasis will be placed on improving communication between commission and community members. Town of Ithaca was awarded a Housing Affordability and Supportive Infrastructure Grant by the County.

Adjournment: Chair C.J. Randall adjourned the meeting at 4:52pm.