

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

**Brookens Administrative Center, Jennifer K. Putman Meeting Room
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator), Patti Petrie (County Board member), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

McGinty called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ammons, 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 Ammons to approve the agenda; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

PROPOSED GOALS STATEMENT WITH ALIGNMENT OF INITIATIVES

Ammons inquired about providing orientation for new county board members, which had received a score of three and was not included in the consolidated list of top ideas and initiatives. Busey explained orientation would be provided. McGinty said he and Busey had discussed having presentations broken down into modules, which could be either emailed or placed on the County website. Busey explained her goal was to supply every board member an orientation packet the day after the election. She said this would provide time for review before the start of the new term, and

opportunities for follow-up would be available. McGinty stated they discussed a more comprehensive approach using a combination of detailed visual aids, for example, screen shots of the County website demonstrating how to navigate it accompanied by the County Administrator's narration. He explained after this process, opportunities for Q and A sessions would be provided.

Petrie asked if the list of ideas and initiatives that received lesser scores of two and three could be included as a reminder in the Committee report and recommendation to the County Board. Busey explained the goals could be added to if necessary. McGinty explained the Committee had discussed every idea, some multiple times, through-out the process and he was happy with the results. He said the County Board would have opportunity for input as well and that is why they gave a score to all ideas and initiatives. Ammons asked if the goals one through four were listed in order of priority. Busey said they were not; every item on the consolidated list of goals received a score of four. Busey expected departments to add initiatives specific to their areas of expertise under each goal. These initiatives would not be included in the strategic plan, but if needed a matrix could be created covering all areas of County government as a whole. McGinty stated once the strategic plan is in place, the expectation is that it would act as a template for department heads to use in their budget processes by tying the funds in their budgets to the goals set forth for County government as a whole. McGinty said when a department head requests a budget change they should be able to tie it to the strategic plan. He said many department heads look to the County Administrator for assistance during the budget process. He explained the strategic plan should promote a more self-reliant and accountable process.

Ammons said a value component should be added to the goals statement. Betz said the County's sponsorship through the quarter-cent sales tax of unique preventive health and safety programs should be documented. Betz gave the example of the Head Start program, which requires inoculations. Betz stated it was important to acknowledge in a documentary form this type of information for the public and future boards so they know that the County Board supports and oversees many diverse programs that contribute to the health, safety, and education of the community at large. McGinty agreed and asked where this type of information should be placed. Betz wanted to ensure future board members were aware of every agency and program that should report to the County Board so each could be monitored and held accountable.

Betz felt one of the goals should read, "Champaign County supports balanced growth and development". Nudo suggested "balanced growth and good quality of life". More discussion followed. Busey suggested everyone review the Economic Development Policy. Busey said they should concentrate on items that fall under the County Board for these goals and she expected the departments to add their own initiatives that fall within their department under the same goals. For instance, the Emergency Management Agency would add specific items related to emergency management under the public safety goal.

McGinty felt the Board should review policies and procedures on a regular basis and said this should be integrated into the plan as well. The consensus of the Committee was for each to review the County's policies and procedures before the next meeting. Ammons said she agreed with Betz that the goal statement of safe and healthy communities encompasses much more than jails. She gave examples of the Delinquency Prevention program and the SAMHSA program administered by the Mental Health Board. Betz said the plan should include a "process" statement in other words, how county business is completed. Busey agreed to be high performing excellent processes must be in place and understood.

Petrie suggested the statement that “local government is friendly and there to serve the residents of the County”. Betz suggested, “The County Board process shall be inclusive of public input and make information available to both the public and the Board to make rational decisions”. Petrie stated the public does not have a sense that they are listened to or get any response when they come before the Board and this should be addressed in goal one. Nudo disagreed and said people usually speak to a specific item on the agenda during public participation and continual exceptions to the rules are made to allow the public to speak, even during discussions. Schroeder added that many times the Board is approached with issues that are not within their scope.

Betz said part of the statement should be “Champaign County is a high performing organization committed to open transparent governance”. Ammons asked why technology was not included in goal four because the website provides services. McGinty said technology goals should be broader because many obtain information in other ways, such as Facebook, Twitter, or direct email. Busey suggested expanding the previous statement to “Upgrade County’s financial management and accounting system, and technology communication systems”. McGinty said although there is no funding to upgrade technology systems, it has to be a goal. Petrie suggested, “Upgrade County’s technology systems” and then list items that are more specific. Busey agreed, and added “and maintain”.

The consensus of the committee was to review and add to the list of goals as discussed for the next meeting. Betz said the plan should include a statement regarding costs because the goals are very expensive. Busey stated any new development has a cost and the Board should prioritize the goals. Busey said if any funds became available, they should go toward technology and facility infrastructures because they are both underfunded. McGinty said the members should provide comments on the plan for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date and time is Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

McGinty adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes
Administrative Assistant