

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

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

Guests: None

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair C.J. Randall called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. No changes to agenda or privilege of the floor.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (October 2023): The draft October 2023 minutes were approved (moved by Yamila, seconded by Annie) as submitted.

Report/Discussion: County Comprehensive Plan – Review of Housing Strategy – Eliot Benman, DPS

Eliot's report focused on the timing of updating Tompkins County's 2017 Housing Strategy and its connection to the Comprehensive Plan update. The current strategy, informed by the 2015 Comprehensive Plan and 2016 Housing Needs Assessment, established targets and approaches for diverse housing categories. Key points include the policies and strategies laid out in the existing plan, such as promoting variety and affordability, targeted development, code enforcement, and collaboration. The discussion revolved around whether to update the strategy before, after, or alongside the comprehensive plan, and whether a new needs assessment is necessary. The next steps involve deciding on the timing and order of updates, as well as the potential need for a new needs assessment. Members highlighted challenges like affordability, development feasibility, and infrastructure limitations. A renewed needs assessment, zoning reforms favoring denser housing, re-examining development focus areas, and exploring regional collaboration were proposed as possible avenues to explore.

Update: 2024 Nominating Committee – Kristin McCarthy, DPS

Kristin thanked Fernando, Dave H., and Jordan for volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee. She also announced that C.J. and Leslie have graciously agreed to reassume their officer positions in 2024, simplifying the committee's work. Nevertheless, Kristin emphasized that nominations will be accepted from the floor, and challengers are welcome for any position. Finally, she expressed gratitude to all renewing members for submitting their applications on time; they are now on track for reappointment by the County Legislature.

Member Items

Members shared news regarding the Home Together Tompkins summit, Cornell's draft Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, a Congress for New Urbanism housing summit in Albany, NYSERDA public stakeholder meetings on

the cost-effectiveness of state energy code changes, and a Department of Energy funding initiative for building local capacity in siting large-scale solar facilities. George also reported that his planning field workshop students are collaborating on a project titled “Reimagine Ithaca 2100” and will be giving a public presentation. Last, David K. mentioned encountering a new Tompkins County resident who works nationally in social science research on recycling behavior and asked for suggestions on whom to connect this person with at the County Department of Recycling & Materials Management.

Adjournment: Chair C.J. Randall adjourned the meeting at 4:59pm.