

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, April 9, 2024
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Attending

Name		Representation	Name		Representation
Liddy Bargar	P	Human Services	Gay Nicholson	P	At-Large
Joe Bowes	E	Housing	Christine O'Malley	P	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	E	Facilities/Infrastructure	Others Present		
David Kay	P	Local Planning (urban)	Abigail Conner	P	Environmental Planner
Thomas Knipe	A	Business	Joan Jurkowich	P	Planning Administrator
Anne Koreman	E	County Legislature	Darby Kiley	P	Associate Planner
Ernie McClatchie	E	Education #1	Kristin McCarthy	P	County Staff
Heather McDaniel	P	Economic Development	Catherine Wilde	P	Transportation Planner

Guests: None

Call to Order/Agenda Review and Changes/Privilege of the Floor: Chair C.J. Randall called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. No privilege of the floor. Abigail's report on the 239 Review annual update was moved to earlier in the schedule due to quorum issues.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes (February 2024): The draft February 2024 minutes were approved (moved by Yamila Fournier, seconded by Jordan Decker) as submitted. Motion carried.

Report/Discussion: General Municipal Law 239 Review Program Annual Update – *Abigail Conner*
 Abigail presented the annual report on the General Municipal Law 239 review process coordinated by the department. She explained the criteria and guidelines for project submissions, highlighting a significant rise in referrals in 2023 compared to the previous year. The review team considers both project type and geographic location during their evaluation, using a General Municipal Law 239 guide currently undergoing updates. Abigail welcomed suggestions for improvements or additional elements to be included in the revised guide. They received a total of 113 submissions, resulting in 69 "no county impact" letters, 28 comment letters, and recommended modifications for 18 projects.

Report/Action: Recommend Proposed Revisions to the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program Guidelines to the PEEQ Committee of the Tompkins County Legislature – *Abigail Conner*
 Abigail presented proposed revisions to the Natural Infrastructure Capital Program Guidelines to the group. The revisions aimed to tighten project eligibility criteria, including adding a water quality or flooding aspect and emphasizing program purpose alignment. The changes would increase the County cost share from one-third to one-half of the most recent assessed value of eligible land. The

group discussed the program's current balance, as well as rolling applications, annual allocations, and the potential for municipal engagement.

Action: Gay Nicholson made a motion, which Yamila Fournier seconded, to recommend the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality legislative committee approve the revised Natural Capital Infrastructure Program guidelines. Motion carried with Andy Zepp abstaining.

Presentation/Discussion: City of Ithaca Draft Downtown Plan – *Yamila Fournier*

Yamila presented the draft Downtown Ithaca Plan, outlining its goals of enhancing livability, connectivity, and economic vitality in the city center. The plan is divided into three density zones: Downtown Core, West End, and W State Corridor. Her presentation and the subsequent discussion touched on multiple topics, including outdated recommendations, the importance of an active transportation network, and the upcoming repaving of Fulton Meadow. Public input has been central to the process, resulting in over 100 recommendations on housing, green spaces, transportation, and innovation. Outreach is currently underway to gather feedback on these recommendations before finalizing the plan for city approval. The outreach plan includes tabling, visits to groups, an open house on May 2, flyers, radio PSAs, press releases, and a survey.

Member Items

George shared that he had an article on discriminatory housing in manufactured housing published in the American Planning Association's Zoning Practice periodical. Members also gave updates on the South Hill Recreation Way extension and Transportation Equity Needs Assessment report.

Adjournment: Chair C.J. Randall adjourned the meeting at 4:46pm.