Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2011

Chairman Bill Goetz called the special meeting of the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission to order at 5:16 PM in the Commission Chambers of the NKAPC Building in Fort Mitchell. Attendance of members was as follows.

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman Bill Goetz</td>
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<td>Vice Chairman Tom Kriege</td>
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<td>Treasurer Tom Litzler</td>
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<td>Commissioner Sherry Carran</td>
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<td>Commissioner Paul Meier</td>
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<td>Commissioner Dick Spoor</td>
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<td>Commissioner Gene Weaver</td>
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Also present were: Michelle Allender, NKAPC; Jeff Bechtold, NKAPC; Dan Bell, Mayor of Taylor Mill; Michael Bennett, Kenton County Citizen; Gretchen Boyce, NKAPC; Donna Bresser, NKAPC; Trisha Brush, GISP, NKAPC; Joe Busemeyer, GISP, NKAPC; Bill Butt, HBA; Mike Carpenter, NKAPC; Susan Conrad, AICP, NKAPC; Matthew C oppage, HBA; Nicole Cullum, NKAPC; Ed Dietrich, AICP, NKAPC; Kathy Donohoue, Citizen; Rita Dreyer, WLNA; Walt Dunlevy, HBA; Tom East, NKAPC; Garry Edmondson, Legal Counsel; Don Edwards, NKAPC; James Fausz, AICP, NKAPC; James Fausz, Sr., Kenton County Citizen; Violette Fausz, Kenton County Citizen; Steve Feldhaus, Independence Resident; Joe Gallenstein, KFTC; Lisa Gillham, Latonia Citizen; Dennis Andrew Gordon, FAICP, NKAPC Executive Director; Gloria Grubbs, City of Elsmere; Jeffrey Hampton, Sierra Club/KFTC; Dennis Harrell, Taylor Mill Citizen; Lorna Harrell, Taylor Mill Citizen; Scott Hiles, NKAPC; Tom Holocher, Former Mayor of Fort Mitchell; Dave Jansing, Mayor of Lakeside Park; Virginia Johnson, KFTC; Larry Klein, City of Covington; Steve Lilly, PLS, NKAPC; Catherine Logsdon, Lakeside Park Citizen; Keith Logsdon, NKAPC; Mike Martin, Mayor of Villa Hills; Rick Masters, MCSE, NKAPC; Janet McCoy, Citizen; Sean McDonald, KFTC; Mackey McNeil, Citizen; Sally Merchant, Villa Hills Citizen; Brian Miller, HBA; Joe Nienaber, Mayor of Fort Wright; Pete Nerone, Covington Citizen; David Noll, Fort Mitchell; Christy Powell, GISP, NKAPC; Sharmili Reddy, AICP, NKAPC; Valarie Redman-Shearer, ASK and Kenton County Citizen; Lori Remley, NKAPC; Bob Schroder, HBA President; Michael Schwartz, Former NKAPC; Paul Schwartz, self; Sharon Shinners, NKAPC; Brian Sims, NKAPC; Marshall Slagle, Covington Citizen; Kyle Snyder, NKAPC; Will Terwort, Fort Mitchell; Tom Vergamini, Crescent Springs; Andy Videkovich, AICP, NKAPC; Scott Wartman, Kentucky Enquirer; Bill Wells, South Covington Community Action Association; and, Chris Wiest, Mayor of Fort Mitchell.
Chairman Goetz asked for a moment of silent prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Chairman Goetz called for comments from the public.

Michael Schwartz stated that members already know the value of the work provided by NKAPC and, since the purpose of this meeting was to set the tax rate, he wanted to point out that no other agency has reduced its tax rate. In fact, he stated several cities had increased their rates – Fort Wright by four percent. He advised members that they had an obligation to stand behind the budget that Councilmembers – all of whom are elected officials – had approved on June 30th after a line-by-line review by its own budget review committee. Mr. Schwartz reminded members of former NKAPC chairman Afton Kordenbrock’s moto, “We hire the best, give them the best, and expect the best out of them.”

Catherine Logsdon of Lakeside Park stated that making a decision like this based on fear is not wise or just. She asked members not to feel that there was no choice because there is one. She encouraged them not to cut staff or services and stated that recent articles demonstrate confusion. She stated that the citizens need to be informed and that NKAPC needs to be fairly represented. Ms. Logsdon thanked members for their service and asked them to take time and to be fair.

Pete Nerone of Covington stated that he has worked with NKAPC staff on several projects and indicated that a full-time professional staff is what’s best for Kenton County. He also stated that he isn’t sure that the HBA is addressing the real issues by focusing on NKAPC. Mr. Nerone is a supporter of most of what the Tea Party stands for but does not agree with them on this issue. He asked members to look at what’s best for Kenton County and to leave the budget as is.

Rita Dryer with the West Latonia Neighborhood Association indicated that she was involved in the Latonia Small Area Study and supports NKAPC. She stated that she was surprised that no one had mentioned the human toll the recommended 40 percent cut would have. Ms. Dryer asked members to think about the staff – fathers, mothers, sole supporters – and how this would impact them.

Tom Holocher, former Mayor of Fort Mitchell, asked members to vote with their hearts and conscience. He stated that NKAPC does a terrific job and is very important to the community. Mr. Holocher said that the petition was a fight for another day and encouraged them to do the right thing.

Sally Merchant of Villa Hills stated that she has been to every meeting and believes that there is a lot of confusion and misinformation. She also indicated that she was surprised and offended by the statement that the public can’t understand. She spoke about NKAPC’s efforts to educate the public – the STEP-UP program, and the GIS outreach program in schools. She questioned why, after the budget was approved by the Council, would NKAPC’s opponents suggest a 40 percent reduction. Ms. Merchant asked if they were so sure the petition would be successful, why push for 40 percent cuts; why not just wait for 100 percent in November.
Tom East, resident of Villa Hills and an employee of NKAPC for 21 years, indicated that there is a lot of misinformation out about NKAPC and stated that the truth is all that matters. He asked members which side they would fall on – the side of truth or the side of deception.

Steve Feldhaus of Independence stated that he supports the staff and NKAPC. He indicated that he is willing to continue paying $3-$5 per month to protect his property. He suggested that members look at alternative funding similar to what Louisville does – impact fees. He indicated that Louisville charges an impact fee of $9,000-$20,000 per home. Mr. Feldhaus stated that demanding a 40 percent reduction is the equivalent of the HBA holding a gun to NKAPC’s head and that going with impact fees would be holding a shotgun to theirs.

Larry Klein, Covington City Manager, stated that the question members should be asking is what’s best for Kenton County. He indicated that leaving the current tax rate in place until a thorough review has been completed is what is best. Mr. Klein stated that NKAPC is the best planning agency in the three counties because it is one agency representing 19 jurisdictions. He went on to say that both GIS and long-range planning are needed and that he has seen the benefits. He closed by asking the members to support NKAPC.

Mackey McNiel, a resident of Kenton County, stated that she supports NKAPC and that it represents consolidated government. She asked if people are really interested in consolidated government and to save money, why don’t the city governments consolidate into one like Louisville Metro? She encouraged members to support NKAPC and reminded them that planning pays.

Chairman Goetz asked if there were any other comments. With none, he stated that there was a letter from Mary Pat Behler and an email from Anne and David Mitchell to be entered into the record (copies of both are attached to the original minutes).

Chairman Goetz then opened the discussion on proposed Resolution 819-2011 setting the 2011 NKAPC tax levy. Mr. Gordon provided members with a handout (a copy of which is attached to the original minutes) and briefly reviewed staff’s recommendations. He also outlined the impact these recommendations would have on the FY12 budget that was approved on June 30, 2011. Mr. Gordon stated that NKAPC’s budget will have been reduced by 20 percent and its staffing by 23 percent since 2008 if staff’s recommendations are adopted this evening. There was discussion regarding the purposed reduction (0.3 of a cent) and possible further reduction a year after permit fees are raised to cover 100 percent of costs.

Chairman Goetz asked if there was a motion to adopt Resolution 819-2011 as recommended by staff. Commissioner Carran made a motion to adopt Resolution 819-2011 setting the 2011 NKAPC tax levy at 3¢ per $100 assessed valuation; Commissioner Spoor seconded the motion. Chairman Goetz asked for a roll call vote on the motion which found Commissioners Carran, Spoor, Kriege, Meier, Weaver, and Chairman Goetz in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Goetz thanked staff for its efforts and encouraged elected official to support the new rate. He asked members if they had any additional comments.
Commissioner Meier stated that, due to recent events, he has learned that GIS is much more than just neat photos and that it is important. He suggested looking at charging a premium to those who are heavy users.

Commissioner Carran stated that a thorough review of fees is in process. She indicated that she is comfortable with increasing permit fees based on the Review Committee’s recommendation and that these increases should make up the difference.

Commissioner Spoor stated that timing is everything and that members are charged with conducting orderly business based on the budget approved by the Council on June 30, 2011. He indicated that the tax rate could be looked at again next year after the new fees had been in place for an appropriate amount of time.

Chairman Goetz asked if the Minutes of the July 18, 2011 business meeting were acceptable or if anyone had any additions/corrections. Commissioner Carran made a motion to accept the July 18 minutes as presented; Commissioner Spoor seconded the motion. Chairman Goetz asked for a roll call vote on the motion which found Commissioners Carran, Kriege, Weaver, Spoor, and Chairman Goetz in favor of the motion with Commissioner Meier present but not voting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Goetz asked if the Minutes of the August 8, 2011 special business meeting were acceptable or if anyone had any additions/corrections. Commissioner Spoor made a motion to accept the August 8 minutes as presented; Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. Chairman Goetz asked for a roll call vote on the motion which found Commissioners Carran, Kriege, Meier, Weaver, Spoor, and Chairman Goetz in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Goetz asked if the Minutes of the August 24, 2011 special business meeting were acceptable or if anyone had any additions/corrections. Commissioner Carran made a motion to accept the August 24 minutes as presented; Commissioner Kriege seconded the motion. Chairman Goetz asked for a roll call vote on the motion which found Commissioners Carran, Kriege, Meier, Weaver, Spoor, and Chairman Goetz in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gordon reviewed the most recent fee-based revenue report to date and asked members if they had any questions regarding the July financial report. After a brief discussion regarding how/when the tax reduction would be reflected in the financial report, Chairman Goetz asked for a motion. Commissioner Meier made a motion to accept the July reports as presented subject to audit; Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. Chairman Goetz asked for a roll call vote on the motion which found Commissioners Carran, Kriege, Meier, Weaver, Spoor, and Chairman Goetz in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Goetz asked for a report from legal counsel. Mr. Edmondson indicated that he had nothing to report.

Chairman Goetz then asked the executive director for his report. Mr. Gordon updated members on the RFP for the new roof and stated that a legal ad had been run last week. He advised that staff had met with prospective bidders and that all agreed that we had gotten all the life out of
the existing roof that was possible. Mr. Gordon stated that, when the building was purchased in 2002, they were told that the roof would need to be replaced and that staff had nursed it along until now. He indicated that money had been set aside for this work and that it would be paid for from the reserve account.

Chairman Goetz provided the members of the public some background information regarding the purchase of the building and the year-long study that was done prior to making that commitment.

Mr. Gordon advised members that the auditors would be here during the first full week of September and he expects to receive their report in late October or early November.

Chairman Goetz asked for reports from committees or members. Commissioner Carran advised that the Council’s Finance Review Committee would be meeting again on September 8. Commissioner Meier advised that OKI would be holding an open house at Crestview Hills on September 15 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Goetz adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.

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Bill Goetz, Chairman

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Dennis Andrew Gordon, FAICP
Executive Director/Secretary