

MINUTES OF THE OTTAWA PLAN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING November 29,
2021

Chairman Brent Barron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Ottawa City Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL - Present: Barron, McConville, Stone, Ruiz, Hughes, Mangold (6:07 arrival), Burns (6:55 arrival). Absent: Sesto. Others: City Planner Doug Carroll, Michael Hoffman of Teska and Associates.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Comprehensive Plan update discussion.*

Barron opened the discussion and turned it over to Mike Hoffman of Teska and Associates. Hoffman discussed changes made to the plan since the last meeting and noted items still needed to correct. Hoffman noted he removed some of the previously proposed bridge connections. Hoffman noted he did not think the Marquette St. corridor is a key economic development area. Hoffman said the one big change is he added some more residential to downtown area. Hoffman discussed the riverfront portion of the updated plan. He noted they have removed the harbor and are helping the City on a grant application for the proposed stage area and the open space area of the proposed plan. Barron expressed the need for service areas for the event space area. Some discussion occurred about which way the event space should face.

Paul Koenig asked about the Vietnam Memorial and Hoffman said it is not being touched. Barron asked about raising the site. Hoffman said there maybe a little but not near what the 2016 plan called for.

Hoffman described the Norris Dr. corridor and some ideas for enhancing signage and landscaping in the area. Hoffman suggested improvements to Paul St. and Norris Dr. and noted they didn't provide specific solutions to the CVS site as it is private property.

Stone noted the possibility of a signal at Guion Street.

Barron asked about the west end of Norris Dr. and the idea of a continuous turn lane. Hoffman noted he will need to speak to IDOT but he said it has happened in other areas.

Hoffman spoke about the east end of Norris Drive and that it is envisioned as a green corridor as one comes into the City.

Hoffman highlighted the I-80/IL 71 interchange and the proposed land uses. He noted he would like the interchange to be a gateway.

Hoffman went over the timeline and suggested a public hearing in January including an open house if necessary.

Barron asked about parks and park accessibility. Hoffman noted he will analyze it for Ottawa. Barron asked about Norris Drive area and the danger of the Paul St. intersection. He suggested the intersection should be closed. Hoffman asked Carroll for data on violations and crashes in that intersection. Discussion ensued about traffic in this area and generally around the City.

Being no further business, Barron adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Carroll, AICP
Carroll Planning, LLC