

MINUTES OF THE OTTAWA PLAN COMMISSION MEETING

March 4, 2013

Chairman Brent Barron called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Ottawa City Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barron, Buiting, Burns, Howarter, Less, Perry, Reagan, Stone, Volker

Absent: None

Others: City Planner Tami Huftel, City Counsel Anita Kopko

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting were approved as published,

An informal discussion was held by OPC members with property owner Doug Fredin regarding a project for Briarcrest Apartments proposed for West McKinley Road.

NEW BUSINESS

a. At 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing – Request for R Zoning for Unaddressed Vacant Lot and 1481 and 1495 E. Illinois Route 71 (ADM)

Tami Huftel presented a brief overview of the ADM request to date noting that in 2012 they had gone through the zoning process with the LaSalle County Board for what is known as Parcel 3 which was approved. Since then ADM has changed the zoning request to Parcel 2 which has better infrastructure and ingress and egress. She added the City wants to ensure that sand hauling trucks go to the site with only 20% of the total going through downtown to a site(s) on the north side of the river. The annexation includes a 200 ft. conservation strip along Covell Creek, no tree loss and buffers shielding the neighbors from outdoor storage. It was added that this Public Hearing is part of the annexation process for ADM and is not part of the Mississippi Sand company.

Brett Madison, Director of Terminal Services for ADM, reviewed the history of the ADM site noting that the property became theirs in 1967. He added: the new site has less impact, more of the needed infrastructure is already in place, the lane that would be used would hold 20 trucks with no backup onto the highway, no more than 4-5 sand trucks would be in line at any one time, there will be 800 ft. between the middle of the dumping site to Covell Creek, the sand is removed by gravity through portholes in the bottom of the trucks and goes into pits and from the pits to barges in encased tubes, there are hours of cleaning done before switching from sand to grain, barge docking/traffic has been reduced over the years due to other methods of grain disposal so additional barge traffic will not be an issue, because the sand is enclosed at all times there is little chance of dust and emissions into the air and that the IEPA requires air permits and monitors such sites.

A discussion and questions from the OPC included:

1. Perry-What are ADM's plans for the vacant lot (Parcel 1) west of the dumping site? None at this time
2. Volker-What is the highest volume of trucks per day expected. Unknown

3. Perry-Will they be hauling sand 24/7? Madison hopes for regular weekday business hours.
4. Buiting-Added that because they are using State and County roads the trucks can continue on past the ADM site and through town to the north side of the river. The City has no control or limits over road use by any trucks.
5. Burns-If 110 trucks a day are expected that means 88 will use the ADM site and only 22 will travel through town. Yes, but there will be no limits to trucks from other sand mining sites.
6. Buiting-Due to the high demand and short supply of fracked sand won't ADM be pressured into being open longer hours. Madison said it would be possible. He would like it to be 7 to 5 but you don't shut down a processing plant .
7. Brent- What will the height be if a new silo is built? 91 ft. Current one is 100 ft.

Chairman Barron then offered the audience to enter the discussion and ask question or make comments.

Attorney Gary Mickey representing adjacent property owner Michael Davies said he objected to the City's lack of proper notice in the continuation of the Zoning Ordinance referencing in particular the minutes of the OPC August meeting and that per City ordinance words were omitted rather than listing "every" addition. Any action on 1/7 should be considered invalid. Davies then added that he/they have already filed suit in the Circuit Court because the parcel submitted to the County is not large enough for the intended use. Barron advised that the City (not the OPC) will respond to a Circuit Court decision when appropriate.

Nearby property owner Peggy Enquist advised members that she chose to relocate to Ottawa and has major concerns about the noise from the dynamiting and truck traffic compared to when she first built her home. She also noted that despite the enclosed conveyor system used for the sand to go from a silo to a barge, there is no way the sand can be 100% contained and there will be sand on the roads and dust in the air. With Starved Rock being the most visited park in the State of Illinois, Bob Navarro (President of the Heritage Corridor Visitors Center) spoke about the severe impact this will have on the tourism business in this County. Brett Madison said that the study given to the County in the Mississippi Sand process showed this sand hauling would have no impact on tourism. Peg Kramer-Graves referred to portions of a letter (attached) she submitted to the OPC and also referred to a traffic study that supposedly done in March on a Wednesday, certainly not a typical high volume tourism day. Her property is located west of the ADM site and across the highway from a U.S. Silica sand mining operation. She said that in 2007 when Silica was still transporting their product by truck the company would periodically wash the roads trucks traveled to remove the sand dust. She has in the past met with Silica representatives showing them the accumulation of sand dust in her yard and landscaping and house façade. Adding that ADM has been a good neighbor, she said with more truck traffic (88 trucks one way=176 trips/day) in front of her house, another silo in the back, a lack of privacy and an inadequate 200 ft. buffer along the creek for property will severely decline the value of her property and affect her "country life".

Reagan questioned if ADM already had plans for the yet undeveloped Parcel 1 (no) and who was responsible for monitoring the sand loading/unloading process/emissions (IEPA). Burns asked if grain and sand would be accepted at the same time (no).

Pursuing the future of Parcel 1, Barron asked if ADM would ever consider placing that parcel into a conservation area rather than developing it. Madison said it was not his decision to make and it would have to be answered by his superiors. He added that this area is a major hub for barge activity (not just sand and grain) from LaSalle and to the north. There are no restrictions on the width of barge tie-ups and that it would take 60 truckloads of sand to fill one barge so no major increase of barges is expected to accommodate the sand traffic.

Concerned citizen Paul Wheeler read a prepared statement (no copy provided) in part referring to the disappointment he had in the County approving the sand mining activity in the first place and the apparent lack of interest and attendance of OPC members at the County public meetings. Michael Davies addressed some of his comments to Brett Madison saying that he was a smart guy in a bad position and undoubtedly under a great deal of pressure from the company to accomplish this sand loading project. But, he noted that of all the meetings he has attended on this matter, it seemed that too many questions were answered by him with "I don't know" and would have thought Madison would have been more prepared and have all the aspects about this project covered. He reminded the OPC that the roads to be used by the trucks are gravel and that the grain business is seasonal, whereas the sand trucking will be constant so there will be dust and that industrial sand is considered hazardous waste.

Chairman Barron read a letter from another nearby property owner Marv Graunke (attached). Ottawa resident Farley Andrews read a prepared statement (attached). As an advocate for the preservation of Starved Rock, audience member Kindred Powers asked Madison if ADM had done their own study on the preservation of Starved Rock and if not why they wouldn't consider it in the interest and concern for this community. Madison responded that they have other larger sites elsewhere with much more truck traffic and have had no issues. Resident Anna Mattes read her letter (copy attached) to the OPC and noted that in the last 12 – 18 months three new sand fracking operations have opened in this area and that this process is a dangerous process using thousands of gallons of water and undisclosed chemicals. In closing she stated that these businesses are taking good farmland out of production and that you can't eat sand or drink oil and that we are part of nature and we can't live without it. Joyce Blumenshine of Peoria expressed her concerns on the impact this process would have on those who live downstream, pollution of the river and on Starved Rock. It was her feeling that this increase in barge traffic will create more of an industrial area and the owners need to have protections from erosion as well as have an emergency plan in place in case a barge breaks loose. When asked what ADM would do if a barge would become untied and its load of sand was "lost", Madison replied that the river bottom is sand. Merlin Calhoun asked OPC to confirm that the City has no control over (any) trucks hauling on State and County roads. Buiting said that all the roads between Starved Rock and the north side of the river are either under State or County jurisdiction and as long as all appropriate permits are in place the City has no authority. Ottawa resident Judy Fenza suggested ADM have a dust pollution survey and traffic survey done as well as consider the risks of having sand and grain at the same terminal. She noted sand spillage from trucks already going downtown and added that she's been told by a driver that a full load is expected to lose 3" of its sand by the time it gets to its point of delivery. Tracy Yang of the Sierra Club suggested that there could be a considerable difference between "State" findings and actual facts regarding pollution and health issues. She added that new research is coming out from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire showing that newly mined sand

is considerably more damaging than old sand (several days out of the ground) and is a huge health concern.

There being no further comments from the audience, OPC members added final comments:

Barron – ADM anticipates this project to create 5 new jobs.

Burns – The City should also be considering the impact this will have on all the adjoining properties to the west. 200 trucks a day will have an adverse impact on tourism.

Barron- Is it the intention of ADM to have grain trucks go to the other side of the river if sand is being unloaded at the Route 71 site. Madison said they have no control over where the trucks haul their grain so it is possible they would travel to the other side of the river or go to another elevator located on the south side of the river.

Madison dispelled concerns about additional barges being on site because for every one barge that is used it takes 60 trucks off the roads.

Reagan- City can't help what the County has already done so wants Ottawa to have control over what happens to that property from now on.

Buiting – Wants Ottawa to have a living economy not be a town like a museum.

Burns- Indicated there are still more details to discuss before a decision is made.

Tami – The traffic study referred to during the meeting submitted to the County was approved by IDOT.

Buiting – The City has no control over trucks going thru town. Who is going to monitor them?

Burns-These companies are taking billions of dollars from our area and we have no impact fees. This is something that should be looked at.

It was moved by Reagan and seconded by Howarter that the Ottawa Plan Commission recommend the City Council approve the “R-Rural” zoning district for the 3 parcels owned by ADM and ARTCO located on East Illinois Route 71. A discussion followed including confirmation that this motion was for zoning only and that the other Public Hearing on the agenda is to discuss proposed conditional uses. Burns noted that LaSalle County had included restrictions for the property when their Board reviewed the ADM request and she felt additional time was needed for all the members to “do their homework” and go over everything that had been submitted regarding this request.

There being no further comments, it was moved by Burns and seconded by Stone that the motion and recommendation to the City Council regarding R-Rural zoning for the three ADM/ARTCO parcels be tabled until the next special meeting of the Ottawa Plan Commission scheduled for April 1, 2013 to give OPC members additional time to review information, reports, letters and studies submitted. 6 Ayes. 3 Nays. Motion carried.

b. Public Hearing – Request for Conditional Use for property at 1481 & 1495 E. Illinois Route 71.

It was moved by Burns and seconded by Less that the Public Hearing for a “Conditional Use” for ADM property be tabled until the next special meeting scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendments

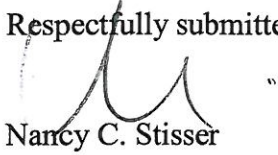
It was moved by Less and seconded by Buiting to continue the Public Hearing for the Other Zoning Ordinance amendments. Motion Carried unanimously.

b. Public Hearing – Sign Ordinance

It was moved by Less and seconded by Buiting that the Sign Ordinance Public Hearing be continued. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, it was moved by Less and seconded by Volker to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy C. Stisser
Recording Secretary

OTTAWA PLAN COMMISSION

Meeting Date: March 4, 2013

NAME (please print):	ADDRESS:	CITY, STATE, ZIP:
Brett Madison	1105 E. Brewster Rd Mays	IL
Man Mickey	2111 Plum St.	Aurora, IL
PEGGY ENQUIST	2655 E 1559th	Ottawa
Bob Navarin	14805 E Eastern Ave	Plainfield
Reg Kramer Graves	1441 ERT 71	Ottawa
Paul Wheeler	639 Gen Mehan	IL 618
		MIKE DAVES
FRED ANDREAS	1115 SUNKISS DR	
KENNEDY PAPERS	1818 DUNDAS HED P.N.	AMBER LEONE
Anna Matter	931 Adams St	Ottawa
Joyce Blumenshain	2419 E. Reservoir	Peoria IL 61614
Kim E Kena	910 W Weaver Rd	Forsyth IL 62531
Methy Colkoun	2535 East 1251	Ottawa IL
ARNZG	824 Columbus S	IL
Tracy Yang	280 W Eastwood Ave Chicago	60601

February 9, 2013

Dear Debby Reagan,

My name is Peggy J. Kramer-Graves and I live at 1441 East State Route 71. We moved here in May of 1998. In 2001 a notice came from the Corp of Engineers requesting comments regarding the 900 acres directly across the street that was owned by U.S. Silica and their plans to begin mining operations. Had we known who our neighbors were, we would have never built on this property.

By 2006-2007 blasting began and continues today. Needless to say, the value of my property has severely declined as well as the impact on my "country way of life".

In January of 2012, hearings began with the proposed sand pit operation at the east entrance of Starved Rock State Park. Much controversy began regarding the impact to the Park, the Tourism Industry, the environmental and ecological issues and the increased truck traffic on Route 71. That controversy still continues today. Route 71 is considered a gateway to Starved Rock.

At the same time, The Village of Utica annexed property out and around the Osage Curves. Top soil was moved around occupied homes within months of the hearings. That controversy still continues today.

ADM purchased property west of their plant. It apparently is divided into three parcels. Mr. Madison is requesting a change in zoning of these parcels from Agricultural to Rural. At the January 2013 Plan Commission, Mr. Madison stated that the parcel directly in back of my home and most of the neighbors was not going to be used in their expansion plan, however they still requested a zoning change. I am requesting that you decline this request to change the zoning on that parcel.

Little consideration is or has been given to the citizens that live around or near any of these businesses. We are to just suck it up and keep quiet.

We that live on Route 71:

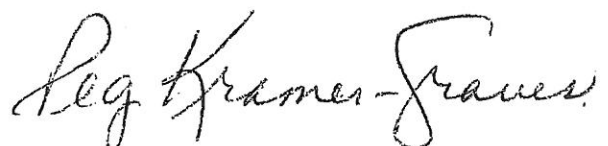
will have blasting from U.S. Silica for the next 58 years

we will have hundreds of sand loaded trucks day and night

and barge loading and sand storage noise day and night

Some consideration must be given to us and the situation we are stuck in. If you approve a zoning change to the parcel behind these few houses, you will have zeroed the value of each and every home. We will be an island of people surrounded by industry with no voice. I pray you consider and understand the serious impact of this situation and deny the change to the most west parcel requested by ADM.

Sincerely,



MARVIN G. GRAUNKE
1431 E. IL Rt. 71
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-2287

To: Members of the Ottawa Plan Commission

From: Marvin Graunke

Date: February 21, 2013

Subject: ADM's request for Zoning Changes on three Parcels of Property

Dear Ms. Reagan,

My name is Marvin Graunke and I am one of the landowners along Covell Creek to the west of the ADM property currently the center of discussion. I have lived here since 1985. When I first moved in, we were surrounded by woods on all sides. It was basically quiet and peaceful. Since that time we have seen that peacefulness erode because of increased activity at ADM next door, across the river at the barge terminal and the U.S. Silica sand mine directly across Route 71 from our property. I, as a landowner, have serious concerns as to the requested changes in zoning by ADM. The following are specific concerns:

NOISE: The noise level from the ADM property has increased significantly over the years. Most of the noise comes from the barge tow-boats at night when it seems barges are moved around. My property is in closest proximity to the river and grain elevators so I get the full brunt of the noise generated. We have a very difficult time keeping our windows open at night during nice weather because of the noise. My question is what will it be like when the noise from the grain and sand operation occurs? Will it increase in direct proportion to the quantity of grain and sand processed?

SAFETY: During the proposed Mississippi Sand mine hearings we have been told that Mississippi Sand plans to transport 110 loads of sand 24 hours a day and seven days a week. That computes to 220 trucks daily in and out of ADM and the sand mine. If this is indeed fact as to the number of loads which will be processed by ADM, it then becomes a question of safety not only on Route 71, but on the access road into the plant. Currently, at peak times for delivery of grain to the plant, the trucks are frequently backed up all the way to the Route 71 entrance. How are the grain AND sand trucks going to be handled?

Are new access roads going to be built and, if so, where? The safety of drivers on Route 71 will definitely be a factor due to the increased access onto the road into ADM and exit out of ADM onto Route 71.

HEALTH: Sand can cause a lot of air pollution. Respiratory ailments should be a serious consideration. I, personally, never had pneumonia before the sand pit opened across the street. Since the mine opened I have had several bouts and have been diagnosed with emphysema. I don't smoke! Is this a coincidence? Maybe. We do know that gritty sand dust is more prevalent now in the house, garden and decks. What precautions would ADM be required to take to prevent sand dust from permeating our property during processing and loading?

BARGE OPERATION: Since we live on Covell Creek, it concerns me how the increased barge operation would be handled. Where will barges be stored/parked? What effect will the barging operation have on the entrance to Covell Creek?

EXPANSION: If approval is given to change the zoning, what would stop ADM from expanding their facilities west of the current access road and grain elevators? This would compound our concerns as that would bring them closer to our property lines and house. Our property has already been devalued because of the mines and this would only add to that devaluation.

I had every intention to come before you and to express my thoughts and concerns at the February 25th meeting, but unfortunately the meeting has been changed to March 4 and I will be out of town. I have spoken with many of the affected landowners and I believe there is agreement on these issues. I would, therefore, respectfully request that the Commission deny the rezoning request on all three parcels, and if not all three, then turn down the request on those parcels to the west of the current access road and elevators.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Marvin Graunke

1115 Sunridge Drive, Ottawa, IL 61350
04 March 2013

Members of Ottawa (IL) City Council: Mayor Robert M. Eschbach, Daniel F. Aussem,
Dale Baxter, Wayne A. Eichelkraut, Ed Whitney,

Many La Salle County residents are extremely disappointed and astounded that both elected and appointed, state, county, and possibly local officials, on whom we depend to voice our concerns, and advocate for our right(s) to a healthy and reasonably safe living environment, have chosen to ignore the issues clearly defined by the conflict over the permitting of expanding and unquestionably destructive and disruptive silica sand-mining within our County and so close to Ottawa's city boundaries.

We are concerned about **how**: the Mississippi Sand mine at the Rt. 71 entrance to Starved Rock Park, intends to obtain, use, and scrub for release, up to 5.1 million gallons of discharge per day, containing sediment and chemicals, through streams within Starved Rock Park, and into the Illinois River (?), without harming that environment and adjacent wildlife preserve (!) !

... There are a great many unanswered questions regarding the long-term impact on the quality and availability of water for human use and consumption, which will now be competing not only with local agriculture, but with the tremendous demands for water required in the mining and milling of silica-sand. With so many mines in our area, intending to compete with one another for industrial use of such enormous volumes (of water), what could/will be the long-term effect(s) on the health of the local population, resulting from lowering of water-levels and the possible contamination of water, coming from the very same aquifer which supplies our drinking water ? ... We are presently in a drought, and the prognosis for long-term relief is not what one might describe at the moment as hopeful or "positive".

I am concerned about the homes of friends and neighbors, living adjacent to land annexed by the Village of Utica for the purpose of circumventing laws, which would have prevented a mine in that location.

We know from recent Wisconsin experience, with frack-sand mining, in close proximity to population centers, that "quality of life" and health of the local population in terms of local air and water quality, become the "trade offs" for state supported granting of mining rights to large and largely irresponsible corporate interests based outside the state... The sand-mines coming to our county and state, are not local industries, and answer to no local authority. Nor is this simply "sand-mining" as local residents of La Salle County have historically come to know it... Mining companies already operating in our County have shown neither a moral nor legal sense of responsibility to those affected locally by the hyper-mining of silica sand. This provides us (La Salle County residents) with more than ample reason for concern, regarding future, local, health and "quality of life" issues.

I ask that you consider supporting the implementation of a "moratorium" on the mining of silica ("frack") sand, in Illinois, until the discussion of sustainable alternatives to an unsustainable fossil-fuel demand can become a common part of the public dialogue informing an enlightened and rational public energy policy. With a determination to implement public policy "as if people mattered", and the commitment of informed citizens and public officials, this conversation can begin. ... There is a great deal at stake, deserving a

great deal more discussion than we have so far heard, from citizens, media, or (our) public officials.

Regarding the purpose of this hearing tonight:

- 1) Annexation, by the Ottawa City Council, of this parcel of land, with a plan to preserve it, for future use as “green” or park space, for the citizens of the city of Ottawa, would be responsive and responsible to the real and future needs of the people of Ottawa.
- 2) Also responsive to the real and future needs of the people of Ottawa, would be, the denial of the request and petition by ADM for rezoning (from “Agricultural” to “R”/“Rural”) and “conditional use”, of the parcels of land on which they intend to expand their present industrial operation, already too close to present city boundaries, and homes of residents, who will be negatively impacted by further industrial development, so close to South Ottawa.

We all will be held responsible, and remembered (some more than others), by succeeding generations for what we have done here... It is about how we determine the kind of world and local environment in which we want to live, and intend to leave for our children and grandchildren. Parceling off tracts of open-lands for destruction, short term financial gain for a very few individuals, and a failing energy policy, at a cost to the health of our citizens, is not a plan for the future, nor a way to convince anyone that thoughtful decisions are being made on their behalf. In the case of La Salle County, there has been NO reasonable response to quite reasonable questions, regarding local health and “quality of life” issues, related to the hyper-mining of silica sand for the questionable process of “hydro-fracking”... We, in La Salle County, and in Ottawa, are becoming saturated and encircled, in some cases “down-wind” from prevailing “westerly” winds, with a proliferation of silica-sand mines for that purpose, and at some point “Enough is enough !”...

We should look around and ask ourselves, “Who are the financial beneficiaries of efforts to exploit our local and valuable natural resources, with so little financial return to the community, for what is ultimately lost to our local economy ? “. ... Why, as we experience the steady and increasing chaos, and inflated costs, of the large-scale (and global) markets, which provide us (in Ottawa) with basic commodities, would it not make sense, to create local and truly sustainable growth, by building to provide for our own basic needs ? ... Why, when we think of “growth” and “development”, do we seem to forget, and fail to understand and/or remember, that you can have neither (“growth” nor “development”) without “conservation”, and conscious efforts to build “sustainability” into any plan to exploit a resource ? ... We need to ask, “Why ? “, as a country, county, and community, are we not seeing far enough into the future, to understand the consequences, of the course we are pursuing, in denial of these ever-present realities ?

Regards,

Farley Andrews
Ottawa, IL
815 313 5738
farleya@earthlink.net

Ladies and Gentleman;

As I see it the issue before us is land use.

In the last 12 to 18 months three new sand mines have been proposed for LaSalle County . . . Mississippi Sand on Route # 71 at the east entrance of Starved Rock. . . The Osage curve on route #6. . . and north of Utica at I-80 and route #178. . . to be used for "frack" sand.

Fracking is a dangerous process which uses thousands of gallons of water, undisclosed chemicals and sand. We need to BAN FRACKING in LaSalle County, the State of Illinois and across the nation.

Sand mines take good and prime farm land out of production forever. No amount of reclamation will ever restore them to the soil which produces our food. We are now working toward the next billion. . . eight billion . . . people on earth all of whom like to eat three times a day. Our farmers feed not only the U.S.A. but many more nations around the globe. None of us can eat sand and we cannot drink oil.

Yes, I know the whole "song and dance" here is about jobs. Shall we employ men to destroy the planet ?. . . the very soil beneath our feet? I would never deny any man a job, but are we getting the "cart before the horse" here? Before a man can work he has to eat.

We've often heard the phrase. . . "We don't appreciate what we had until it is gone." Well, it applies right here. Starved Rock is the crown jewel of LaSalle County and the State of Illinois. With two million visitors each year it attracts tourist from far and near where nature refreshes the spirit. . . where small businesses thrive and bring in work and revenue. . . where there is a quiet place in a noisy world. Lest we forget. . . WE ARE PART OF NATURE.. . and we cannot live without it.

We all sat in biology class and learned the value of a wetland. . . estuary. . . or marsh. It is where micro-organisms and all life forms begin . . . where fresh water enters the ecosystem. . . where the ebb and flow of the river rises and falls with rain.

We all sat in physics class where we learned that sand rock is fragile. It is not granite. Blasting for sand so near Starved Rock is not going to do any favors for the park and its canyons.

We all sat in science class and learned the interaction of all things. Sadly it seems our citizens know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

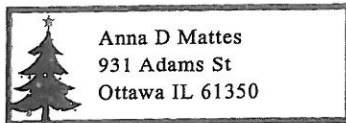
What do you value ?

Years ago we could have had a bypass east of the city to avoid the present situation, but that is past history. . . .or is it?

ASK YOURSELF. . . What do you want for our lovely home town, at the confluence of the mighty Illinois and Fox rivers? What do you prefer for the future of LaSalle County? Do you want it to look as if it has been bombed with more gapping useless holes in the ground? Think about these things and while you are thinking. . . please make long range plans and do not consider immediate gratification.

Healthy food – pure water -- clean air – without these, what is the quality of Life?

What do you really value?



January 28, 2013

~~Dear Mayor Eschbach and Council members:~~

I am appealing to your common sense and care for the environment, business, and tourism of our city and our area. While the County Board was totally insensitive to the views of thousands of their constituents and the majority of residents of La Salle County, and voted to allow a change in use from agricultural to mining in regards to the now infamous Mississippi Sands/Starved Rock mine, you all should be knowledgeable about the consequences of permitting ADM to add to the problems already created.

We have spent years on advertising Ottawa as a beautiful town to stop in, shop and drive through on the scenic way to Starved Rock. Have you seen the devastation from the silica mine adjacent to Deer Park Blacktop on Route 71? Have you seen the photos of the swirling sand and the pit in the earth? Do you know about the wells that are sucked dry? Have you talked to the residents? Trucks will be lumbering through Ottawa on their way to and from the proposed mine at the gates of Starved Rock by Council Cave and Illinois Canyon. Scenic Route? How about bombed out war zone? Do you think visitors, bicyclists, motorcycle riders, hikers will fight the traffic and win the battle against huge sand trucks? Tourists fuel the economy. Have we not had enough history of what industry has done to contaminate and pollute our city and area?

Radium City, Radium Girls, the twenty year battle with Pioneer Processing proposing a toxic waste dump on the St. Peter Sandstone Aquifer, (which we won!), issues in Marseilles, Oglesby, Seneca as well all came about because industry looks at La Salle County and sees dollar signs and local governments that succumb to the pressure of the almighty dollar.

When many of us ran in 1999 to change the face of government we did so based on making Ottawa into a place people wanted to visit and also to provide a high quality of life to our residents. As a nurse, I can tell you that there are scientific studies to show the deleterious health effects from silica sand. We will be surrounded if Mississippi Sands wins the battle to start mining. Why should we grant ADM the right to use land for storing sand that has come from desecrating a sacred area, a park that belongs to all people? Why should Ottawa do what the County Board would, then would not do, vacillating between decisions because of legal implications?

Please take a stand for the good of all of us and do not succumb to the false advertising of job creation. We are a union family and oppose the mine and the use of the site near Ottawa for ADM. Jobs, homes, and health will be destroyed. The county chose one individual's rights to sell his property and ignored the well being and rights of hundreds, even thousand of others.

If I were still on the City Council I would be opposing the ADM request.

We will be happy to share what communities in other states have suffered because of the increase in sand mines in their areas.

Best Regards,

DAPHNE MITCHELL, MPH, BA, RN
OTTAWA, IL.