



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, Director, Community Development Director

DATE: February 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Participation in the development of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan

Introduction

Champaign County is inviting the City of Urbana to take part in a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. The Urbana City Council is being asked to decide whether or not the City should take part in this plan. Approving the attached Resolution is the requested action authorizing the City to participate. City staff anticipates that the City Council will formally consider this Resolution at its February 18, 2008 meeting.

The City of Urbana currently has a Hazard Mitigation Plan which was prepared in response to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Urbana is in fact the only jurisdiction in Champaign County which has such a plan. Urbana's Plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in May 2005 and by the Urbana City Council in June 2005. (See attached.) Staff does not see any obvious areas where Urbana's Plan needs to be revised. However, it does make sense to participate to (1) determine if any areas should be updated, (2) coordinate Urbana's Plan with those of other jurisdictions, and (3) insure that Urbana's concerns are addressed in the larger context. Additionally, Urbana's plan must be updated in 2010 anyway.

Discussion

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) has awarded Champaign County a planning grant to develop a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. The Plan's purpose will be to reduce risks associated with natural disasters such as tornados, floods, and winter storms. It will do so by identifying hazards, assessing community needs, and providing community-wide strategies for reducing risks. Additional benefits for Champaign County jurisdictions would include:

- Making jurisdictions eligible for Federal hazard mitigation funds, in conformance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000;
- Enabling coordinated approaches to mitigation hazards across jurisdictions;
- Allowing cost savings by sharing resources and using economies of scale;

- Avoiding duplication; and
- Imposing an external discipline on the process.

The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is expected to complete the plan following the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planning process. The process is expected to take 24 months. A planning team, to be chaired by Bill Keller, Champaign County Emergency Management Agency Director, will be formed to guide development of the plan. Susan Monte, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, will coordinate the project.

Champaign County is formally inviting all communities in the County, including the City of Urbana, to participate in this plan. (See attached.) Champaign County is requesting that participating jurisdictions adopt the attached resolution and appoint a representative. In terms of Urbana representatives serving on the planning team, Tony Foster, Fire Department, and Robert Myers, Planning Division, are proposed. Champaign County wants to identify all communities and agencies wishing to participate by February 26, 2008.

The City of Urbana is not being asked to contribute money to the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The local match for the State grant will be met through contribution of staff time.

Recommendation

City staff recommends that the Committee of the Whole review the attached Resolution and forward it to the City Council for approval.

Prepared by:

Robert Myers, AICP
Planning Manager

cc: Pius Weibel, Chair, Champaign County Board
Susan Monte, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission staff
Tony Foster, Fire Department

Attachments:

Resolution Authorizing the City of Urbana to Participate in the Development of a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
Letter from Pius Weibel to Mayor Prussing, January 11, 2008
Urbana Hazard Mitigation Plan cover, adopting ordinance, and table of contents

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-02-002R

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF URBANA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, Champaign County has received a planning grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for the development of a local mitigation plan that meets Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planning criteria, with this grant funding 75% of the cost of plan preparation, and Champaign County providing the remaining 25% funding through staff time; and

WHEREAS, the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission is facilitating development of the plan, including project coordination, administrative services, research, document preparation, public involvement and mapping, with the estimated timetable of 24 months to complete the FEMA planning process to develop the plan; and

WHEREAS, a Planning Team is being formed to guide development of the multi jurisdictional mitigation plan, with the Director of the Champaign County Emergency Management Agency serving as Chair of the Planning Team; and

WHEREAS, preparation of the multi-jurisdiction mitigation plan is following the FEMA planning process, covering the County and interested communities, with participation open to all communities in Champaign County; and

WHEREAS, the plan and the planning process will need to meet the FEMA criteria for qualifying Champaign County and participating municipalities to receive hazard mitigation funds under the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is eligible to participate in development of the multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan and thereby effectively update its existing Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Urbana City Council resolves that:

Section 1. The City of Urbana agrees to participate in development of the multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan that meets FEMA planning criteria to be prepared by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission.

Section 2. The City of Urbana will appoint representatives to the Planning Team, to act on behalf of the City of Urbana in the analysis and development of a hazard mitigation plan.

PASSED by the Urbana City Council this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor