

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

September 15, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mr. Belz.

PRESENT

David L. Belz
Lonnie Batdorf
Toni Renee Anderson
Ronald M. Rovanseck
James White
Tim Whited
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Russell Kiel

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Christopher D. Allison
Shanna M. Murphy
Colleen A. Bukowski

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 18, 2016 CCPC meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. White. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The September Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and review by those present. In response to a question concerning the funding of the Unified Planning Work Program, Mr. Imhoff explained that the program is on a two-year funding cycle and unexpended funds from the first year can be carried over to the second funding year, however, any funds remaining in the contract after the second year are forfeited. Mr. Imhoff noted that the Commission's annual audit, performed by BarnesSaly, LLP, is scheduled to begin next week. Mr. Wolf made a motion that the September Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. White and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no correspondence to be read at this time.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Updating the members on the regional comprehensive plan project, Mr. Imhoff stated that the consultant selection process is underway. He explained that based on the eight proposals submitted, the Planning Advisory Committee interviewed six consultants, selected two for a second round of interviews, and will make a recommendation for contract award to SAPDC, the lead agency on this initiative. Noting that funding for the project will be secured through a \$164,000 grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and equal contributions from the participating counties, Mr. Imhoff stated that Cambria County's monetary share will amount to \$30,000 and will be funded through the Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Imhoff reported that development of the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan is progressing on schedule. He stated that a list of realistic, implementable projects is being compiled based on input received at the three-day charrette. As previously noted, the corridor plan will focus on a sidewalk connection between downtown Cresson and the Mount Aloysius campus, intersection improvements at the SR 53 intersection, and a recreational trail connection between the Allegheny Portage National Historic Site and the Cresson Township Park. In response to Mr. Wolf's inquiry as to whether Mount Aloysius College is willing to financially contribute to the pedestrian walkway which would be heavily utilized by their student population, Mr. Imhoff stated that he will be meeting with President Foley to discuss the issue and the possibility of the college being a project sponsor when applying for grant funding to implement the project.

Mr. Imhoff noted that UPJ administrators have expressed an interest in constructing a pedestrian trail to connect the Johnstown campus with the Richland Commons shopping center. He explained that at the request of the County Commissioners, CCPC staff conducted a site visit with PennDOT staff, the County Grants Administrator and others to look at the best possible route. Noting that although grant funding is available for this initiative, Mr. Imhoff stated that wetland concerns and mitigation must be considered before the project can move forward.

Also briefly discussed were various coordination activities undertaken during the past month, i.e., CCPC involvement in the update of the Geistown Borough subdivision ordinance, PA DOT plans for the Carrolltown Streetscape Improvements Project, and increased AMTRAK passenger service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan has been completed and submitted to PennDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. He noted that copies of the Plan and the Executive Summary will be available at the October CCPC meeting. The implementation phase of the LRTP is expected to begin in 2017.

Providing an update on the reuse of unused earmarked transportation funds, Mr. Allison stated that the JATS Technical Committee recent approved the transfer of these funds, totaling approximately \$860,000, to the current Transportation Improvement Program. He noted that discussion at the JATS meeting focused on the reallocation of these funds to several candidate projects along the Route 219 corridor in Carrolltown and Northern Cambria Boroughs.

Mr. Allison provided highlights of several meetings he had attended during the past month. He stated that PennDOT has decided to continue the one-lane traffic pattern in the area of the Route 56 rock slide and will make some aesthetic improvements at the site. Noting his attendance at the annual HPMS workshop, Mr. Allison stated that contracted services for HPMS data collection will be coordinated through PennDOT for all MPOs throughout the state.

Noting the staff's continued coordination of the County's Interchange Lighting Program, Mr. Allison reported that staff reviewed and recommended payment of twenty-one inspection and maintenance invoices. He Allison noted that the County's interchange lighting service contract is expected to be re-bid soon as the current maintenance contract expires at the end of this month. Staff also drafted a letter on behalf of the County Commissioners indicating their support of PennDOT District 9-0 assuming the lead role in organizing service and maintenance to the County's interchange lighting systems.

Community Development

Ms. Murphy reported that staff completed field data collection for the Sign Inventory in Carrolltown Borough. Information was collected for 592 signs throughout the borough and data for each sign will be entered into the interactive PDF forms and the GIS database.

Noting that she recently attended an LTAP Planning Partners Meeting, Ms. Murphy updated the members on classes scheduled for the remainder of the year. She provided information on the following three courses: Engineering and Traffic Studies; Pavement Markings: Applications and Maintenance; and Salt and Snow Management. Ms. Murphy stated that she designed flyers and promoted the workshops through mailings, CCPC Facebook, and the Commission's website.

Application and project reviews completed by the staff during the past month were reviewed by those present.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no "Old Business" to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff requested that the Employment and Contracts Committee be reorganized and convened prior to the October CCPC meeting. Mr. Batdorf, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Rovanseck, and Ms. Anderson volunteered to serve on the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted that he has been discussing office space relocations with the County Redevelopment Authority and GIS departments in an effort to gain additional office space which will be needed if additional Commission staff is hired.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Batdorf. The motion passed unanimously.