

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission

October 20, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz  
Russell Kiel  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Toni Renee Anderson  
Ronald M. Rovansek  
Tim Whited  
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

James White

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Batdorf, seconded by by Mr. Kiel, the minutes of the September 15, 2016 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prior to reading the October Financial Statement, Mr. Imhoff stated that the 2015-2016 audit had been completed and would be presented at the November meeting. He added that no adverse findings were discovered during the course of the audit. The October Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. There were no questions on the financial information presented. On a motion by Mr. Batdorf, seconded by Wolf, the October Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff updated the members on the status of the regional comprehensive plan. Noting that CZB Consultants has been selected to prepare the plan, Mr. Imhoff indicated that staff has begun compiling statistical, demographic, and employment data as requested by the consultant. He reported that each participating county is in the process of forming a steering committee to assist in guiding development of the plan. Explaining that the steering committee is to be comprised of fifteen to twenty individuals representing a cross-section of Cambria County, Mr. Imhoff stated that the planning directors from each county will serve as the liaison between the steering committee and the regional committee. He noted that a member of the CCPC and a County Commissioner are invited to serve on the Cambria County committee. Mr. Rovanssek volunteered to serve as the CCPC representative. Mr. Imhoff requested that names of individuals who may be willing to serve on the steering committee be submitted to him and he will contact the individuals to ascertain their interest. He explained that each member of the steering committee will be encouraged to network with a group of their peers in an effort to obtain comprehensive and diverse input and feedback. Input from individuals of varying ages, economic status, and employment backgrounds will insure that the comprehensive planning document reflects the goals and objectives of the residents of Cambria County as much as possible.

Mr. Imhoff reported that in association with the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan, an ongoing effort has been discussion of a pedestrian path connecting the Allegheny Portage National Historic Site with Veterans Park in Cresson Township. Meetings have been coordinated with representatives of the National Park Service, the County Conservation and Recreation Authority, and Cresson Township to help bring this project to fruition. Mr. Imhoff stated that funds may be available through the Federal Lands Access Program to assist with the cost of constructing the pedestrian pathway.

Noting that he had recently attended a site visit of the closed SCI Cresson property, Mr. Imhoff stated that the State has plans to re-bid the sale of the property. Although a portion of the property is owned by the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority, Mr. Imhoff indicated that the reuse of the remainder of the property may be limited due to the previous specific use of the structures, i.e., cell blocks, and the deteriorated condition of many of the buildings and facilities.

Providing an update on the UPJ-Richland Commons pedestrian path initiative, Mr. Imhoff reported that he had met with a hydrogeologist to discuss and review a proposal to delineate and mitigate wetlands which are suspected to be in the area of the project. He noted that UPJ officials are very interested in developing the walkway and have expressed financial commitment to the project as well. The County Grants Administrator has been apprised of the project and is also seeking possible funding sources.

Mr. Imhoff noted that a meeting with the Northern Cambria Municipal Authority, Carrolltown Municipal Authority and West Carroll Municipal Authority has been scheduled for October 28, 2016. Discussion at the meeting will focus on the Northern Cambria Municipal Authority's proposed waterline construction project, existing water supply infrastructure, and the impact of the project on neighboring municipalities and water authorities.

## Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison reported that PA DOT personnel recently completed an auditing assurance field review for the Highway Performance Monitoring System. Results of the review indicated that data collection is being properly compiled by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Allison informed those present that the Johnstown Area Transportation Study (JATS) will now be officially recognized as the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He explained that the organization's bylaws have been updated to reflect this change. Since the bylaws now indicate that one borough and one township representative is to serve on each of the MPO committees (Coordinating and Technical), Mr. Allison has begun seeking nominees to serve on the committees.

Reporting on additional MPO activities, Mr. Allison stated that both the Coordinating and Technical Committees have approved the transfer of unused earmark funds to the Route 219 Carrolltown project. He noted that the availability of these funds will assist in implementing traffic safety and streetscape improvements as addressed in the Route 219 Corridor Study.

Mr. Allison stated that staff continued coordination activities for the inspection and maintenance of the County's interchange lighting systems. He indicated that the low bidder for the County's recent request for bids for the interchange lighting service contract was Barclay Electric, who has been servicing the system for the past several years.

Mr. Allison noted that he brought several copies of the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040 to this meeting and invited the members to take a copy of the plan. Additional copies of the document are also available at the CCPC office and on the CCPC website.

## Community Development

Ms. Sosko apprised the members of activities undertaken by the Community Development staff during the past month. She stated that staff is working with CamTran staff on development of the Authority's Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. Ms. Sosko explained that at CamTran's request, Commission staff compiled the transit related responses from both the LRTP survey and the Admiral Peary Corridor Plan survey. In addition, census data, demographic information, and mapping for the rural route service area is also being provided to assist in CamTran's planning efforts.

Ms. Sosko stated that the Carrolltown Borough Sign Inventory is being finalized. She explained that the interactive PDF forms will provide sign delineation and location, as well as specific information for each individual sign such as type, text, condition, retroreflectivity compliance, pole type and condition, and maintenance notes.

With regard to the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP), Ms. Sosko reported that LTAP planning partners will be presenting several advanced classes during the coming year. She noted that the next scheduled LTAP class, "Engineering and Traffic Studies" will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

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

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that the final land development plans for the natural gas fired combined cycle electric generating facility being proposed in Jackson Township had been submitted by LR Kimball on behalf of Competitive Power Ventures. Noting that the final plans have not significantly changed from the preliminary submission, Mr. Imhoff indicated that he had prepared a draft of review comments to be submitted to the Jackson Township Supervisors, pending Commission member concurrence. Mr. Imhoff briefly reviewed the draft letter which included the following comments: the majority of the site is classified as Resource Production on the Cambria County future land use map in the Cambria County Comprehensive Plan; the project enhances the County's economic sustainability goals; PA DEP approval is needed for the NPDES permit before land development activities are initiated; and private property owners identified as being potentially impacted by excessive decibel levels have signed waiver agreements with the developer. Mr. Wolf made a motion that the letter drafted by the Executive Director detailing CCPC comments on the Competitive Power Ventures Final Land Development Plans be approved and submitted to the Jackson Township Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kiel and passed unanimously.

Explaining that he had recently met with members of the Employment and Contracts Committee to discuss the hiring of a Senior Planner, Mr. Imhoff stated that a draft of the proposed job description and qualifications had been provided to each member prior to the meeting. Briefly reviewing the job description, qualifications, upcoming projects, and compensation for this position, Mr. Imhoff stated that he would like to advertise the position as soon as possible in the hopes that the position can be filled in January or February of next year. In response to a question by Mr. Rovanseck regarding the stability of the Commission's future funding levels, Mr. Imhoff indicated that he is confident that current and anticipated future state and county funding will sustain the hiring of an additional staff person. He noted that a five-year transportation bill has recently been passed and annual financial support from the County is expected to continue at current funding levels. On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Batdorf, the Executive Director was authorized to advertise for the Senior Planner position. The motion was passed unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

As previously discussed for the past several months, Cambria County, acting through the CCPC, is participating in the development of a six-county comprehensive plan. In this regard, Mr. Imhoff presented a grant cooperation agreement between the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and the six participating counties. Mr. Imhoff provided an overview of the agreement, briefly noting SAPDC's coordination responsibilities and the cooperative and financial contributions of each participating county. He further explained that the agreement guarantees a \$30,000 commitment from each county and noted that Cambria County's share will be funded through the Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Kiel made a motion that the Grant Cooperation Agreement be executed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Rovanseck, seconded by Mr. Kiel. The motion passed unanimously.