

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission

February 21, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Ronald M. Rovansek  
Debra Orner  
Lonnie Batdorf

ABSENT

Toni-Renee Anderson  
Eric Wolf  
Rev. Sylvia King  
Diane Waksmunski  
James White  
Russell Kiel

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner B.J. Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDTABLE

Topics shared at this time included the upcoming podcast being developed in partnership with the CCPC and Mount Aloysius College; award of \$2.7 million from the Multi-Modal Transportation Fund to the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority for the Rosedale Industrial Park connector project; Governor Wolf's visit to Johnstown and his recommitment to addressing the issue of blight; gas line improvements at the County prison; and continued activity on the Route 219 North improvement project. Commissioner Smith also provided brief information on the advantages and disadvantages of a county-wide reassessment initiative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Orner, seconded by Mr. Batdorf, the minutes of the January 17, 2019 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff reviewed the February Financial Statement, briefly commenting on the receipts and expenditures listed. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. Batdorf made a motion that the Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orner and passed unanimously.

## CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was read at this meeting.

## STATUS REPORTS

No oral presentations of status reports were given. Since the members present had no specific questions on the written reports and there was no "Old Business" to be presented, discussion turned to "New Business."

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that the 2018 Annual Report has been prepared and is posted on the Commission's website. He indicated that the report has also been printed in hard copy format, with several copies available at this meeting. Mr. Rovansek suggested that due to the small attendance at today's meeting, additional copies of the document be provided at the March CCPC meeting.

Mr. Imhoff stated that he would like to review the Commission's current Act 247 Fee Schedule and discuss a slight increase in the fees. He explained that the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code requires County Planning Commission review of subdivision and land development applications submitted to municipalities that have adopted ordinances. Noting that the fee schedule has been unchanged for the last five years, Mr. Imhoff explained that fees are based on staff time required to review each specific type of application, i.e., residential/commercial/industrial subdivisions, residential/commercial planning modules; and zoning/SALDO amendments. It was also noted that approximately \$10,000 is generated each year by this service provided by CCPC staff. A discussion ensued regarding Act 247 legislation and the MPC directive that a review of subdivision/land development applications must be completed at the County level; CCPC comments being advisory in nature; and final approval/disapproval of applications remains with the governing municipality. Staff commented that applications are reviewed to ensure conformity with municipal ordinances as well as with the goals and objectives of the County Comprehensive Plan. It was also noted that because many of Cambria County's municipalities do not have active planning commissions and/or zoning boards, CCPC staff expertise can be an invaluable resource. Mr. Batdorf expressed his view that since CCPC review and comments are advisory in nature, there is a redundancy in the review process. After lengthy discussion, there was a consensus among those present that a decision regarding the review fee structure be tabled until after discussion at the next CCPC meeting.

Mr. Rovansek inquired about the possibility of the Commission paying for meals for board members who attend the monthly Commission meetings. Mr. Imhoff noted that this would not be an allowable expense under the Unified Planning Work Program contract, however, funds from the County allocation could possibly be used for this purpose. He suggested that this issue be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Batdorf, seconded by Ms. Orner. Motion passed unanimously.