

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
June 20, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Ronald M. Rovansek
Eric Wolf
Lonnie Batdorf
James White
Debra Orner

ABSENT

Rev. Sylvia King
Toni-Renee Anderson
Diane Waksmunski
Russell Kiel

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Batdorf, the minutes of the May 15, 2019 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The June Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. Mr. Imhoff noted that one-half of the County allocation for 2019 has been received to date and that a receivable of \$40,000 will be forthcoming from PA DCED for development of a Housing Strategy for the City of Johnstown. There being no questions 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 Mr. White and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff indicated that there was no correspondence to be read at this meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that he is in the process of preparing an RFP for the Johnstown Housing Strategy and expects to advertise for proposals in July. He stated that the Johnstown Housing Strategy is being undertaken as a component of a larger Johnstown Redevelopment Strategy, which is being coordinated by several community and economic development groups/agencies. Noting that the Redevelopment Strategy was initiated by the 1889 Foundation,

Mr. Imhoff explained that the Strategy will be undertaken/implemented through a rebranding of Vision 2025, namely Vision Together 2025.

Mr. Imhoff stated that the latest episode of the Alleghenies Ahead podcast focused on redevelopment projects in the Johnstown region. In this podcast, Mr. Imhoff and Melissa Komar, Executive Director of the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority, discuss housing and blight action items from the Alleghenies Ahead comprehensive plan.

Providing an update on the proposed hiking trail from Veterans Park in Cresson Township to the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic site, Mr. Imhoff stated that the property owner (Penelec) requires a survey plan in order to grant the easement for trail construction. He indicated that Stiffler McGraw will conduct the survey, which will be funded through the current Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Imhoff also indicated that Cresson Township has agreed to take the lead in completing the trail once Penelec has signed off on the easement.

Transportation Planning

Updating the members on coordination activities between the CCPC, PA DOT, and the County Conservation and Recreation Authority to install wayfinding trail signage along several state highways in the county, Mr. Allison stated that District 9-0 staff has indicated that the state's Sign Trust Program must be utilized for this initiative. Mr. Allison commented that although this will require a more involved process to accomplish the signage project, coordination activities will continue in effort to see this project come to fruition.

Mr. Allison reported that the planning process to update the Long Range Transportation is underway. He noted that CCPC staff has facilitated discussions with representatives from PA DOT, Cresson Township, and Mount Aloysius College with regard to final design details of the proposed sidewalk project in Cresson Township. A direct outcome of the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan, the project involves the construction of a sidewalk from the Mount Aloysius campus to the PA 53 intersection in Cresson Township.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Sosko stated that in addition to routine updates and maintenance to the Commission's website and Facebook pages, she has marketed and facilitated two LTAP courses during May and June. She indicated that both the "Road Surface Management" and the "Full Depth Reclamation" LTAP presentations were well attended.

Ms. Sosko reported that she is representing the CCPC as a member of the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, recently formed by the County Commissioners. She explained that the committee is comprised of community leaders tasked with educating county residents of the importance of the upcoming census and encouraging response to the census so as to ensure a complete and accurate census count. She stated that the first meeting of the committee was positive and reflected enthusiasm in accomplishing the goals of the committee.

Senior Planner

Ms. Kinka informed the members that recent discussions regarding the Johnstown Redevelopment Strategy resulted in adding "Improving Government, Governance and Supporting Systems & Processes" as a strategy

priority. She noted that the regional comprehensive plan identifies coordination of government services as an important future goal.

Ms. Kinka stated that, as a member of the Vision 2020 Recreational Economy Committee, she has been researching a pilot project whereby private business owners with available space could provide bicycle parking/racks. She explained that this type of project could be implemented while the City continues efforts to develop an Encroachment Ordinance which allows for bike racks to be installed in public right-of-ways. Ms. Kinka further explained that enactment of such an ordinance would be an asset in promoting economic development in that it would address not only installation of bicycle racks/corrals but also facilitate such business improvements as outdoor awnings, signage, sandwich boards, etc.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDTABLE

Several members and staff shared positive happenings and events ongoing throughout the County. Most notably, Ms. Orner thanked Commission staff for their attendance at a meeting of the transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce. She stated that their presentation, which focused on the role and function of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), was very informative and well received.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rovansek stated that there was no "Old Business" to discuss at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff reminded the members that there will be no CCPC meeting in July.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Mr. Batdorf. Motion carried.