

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
October 17, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held on Thursday, October 17, 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
James White
Diane Waksmunski
Russell Kiel

ABSENT

Rev. Sylvia King
Toni-Renee Anderson
Lonnie Batdorf
Debra Orner

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
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. White, the minutes of the September 19, 2019 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The October Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by the members present. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. White made a motion that the Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kiel and passed unanimously. Mr. Imhoff noted that copies of the 2018-2019 CCPC Audit had been provided to each Commission members prior to this meeting. All members present indicated that they had received and reviewed the audit documents and stated that they had no questions or comments on the report. On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski, the 2018-2019 CCPC Audit, as prepared by BarnesSaly,LP, was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

GOOD NEWS ROUNDTABLE

Several Commission members and staff shared positive happenings throughout the county, most notably new business openings in Johnstown's CBD and the opening of Austin's Treehouse, a resource and activity facility for

children to connect and play despite physical, social, or emotional challenges.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff informed the members that in addition to a kickoff meeting for the Johnstown Housing Strategy held earlier this month, the consultant has also met with local building owners to discuss market rate housing in downtown Johnstown. He noted that an upcoming initiative of the strategy will be an employer survey which will help to ascertain workforce interest in downtown living.

Mr. Imhoff stated that through the efforts of Commission staff, PennDOT Central Office staff, and the Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail organization, a transportation briefing will be held in Johnstown on October 30th. Ms. Jennie Granger, Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation, will be in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Imhoff explained that the major purpose of the meeting is to discuss ongoing efforts to increase passenger rail service along Amtrak's Pennsylvanian line that runs between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, which includes one daily stop in Johnstown. With regard to the Pennsylvanian, Ms. Kinka noted that Amtrak has officially announced that an additional baggage car will be added to this passenger line to facilitate bicycle storage.

With regard to *Alleghenies Ahead* action items, Mr. Imhoff stated that a recent podcast was recorded in Fulton County at the site of a tunnel located on an abandoned section of the PA Turnpike between Breezewood and Sidling Hill. He explained that Bedford and Fulton Counties are pursuing plans to develop this 8.5 mile abandoned section into a recreational trail.

Noting that Mr. Allison was attending a PennDOT Planning Partners meeting today, Mr. Imhoff reported that the Chest Creek Bridge Replacement project is nearing completion, with a ribbon cutting scheduled for November 1st. He noted that Commission members are welcome to attend the ceremony.

Senior Planner

Ms. Kinka stated that she continues her involvement with the Central Park Square capture team in discussing and implementing improvements which will continue to market downtown Johnstown, specifically Central Park, as a destination. She indicated that LED lighting has been installed to promote safety and to encourage evening foot traffic. Updating the members on the Downtown Johnstown Bicycle Rack resolution, Ms. Kinka stated that she is coordinating with City staff to finalize language in the resolution so that it can be presented to City Council for adoption consideration.

Ms. Kinka apprised the members that she participated in a meeting of the Cambria-Somerset Association of Realtors to discuss community development grant opportunities available through the association.

Community Development

Ms. Sosko reported that she has organized and participated in Cambria County's Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. She commented that at recent meetings, committee participants expressed interest and enthusiasm in launching a campaign to encourage all residents to participate in the 2020 Census.

With no Old Business or New Business agenda items to discuss, Mr. Rovansek made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wolf and passed unanimously.