

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
January 16, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Ronald M. Rovansek
James White
Debra Orner
Diane Waksmunski
Rev. Sylvia King

ABSENT

Eric Wolf
Russell Kiel
Lonnie Batdorf

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner Scott Hunt
Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

Noting that today's meeting was a Reorganization Meeting of the Commission and that all current officers have served the maximum terms outlined in the CCPC bylaws, Mr. Rovansek opened the floor to nominations for the positions of Chair; Vice-Chair; Secretary; and Treasurer. Eric Wolf was nominated as Chair on a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Rev. King; James White was nominated as Vice-Chair on a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski; Diane Waksmunski was nominated as Secretary on a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Rev. King; and Lonnie Batdorf was nominated as Treasurer on a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski. The following slate of officers was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present:

Eric Wolf, Chair
James White, Vice-Chair
Diane Waksmunski, Secretary
Lonnie Batdorf, Treasurer

It was noted that Eric Wolf will replace Ronald Rovansek and Lonnie Batdorf will replace Russell Kiel as signatories on Commission bank accounts. Necessary banking paperwork will be completed as soon as possible to reflect this change.

In the absence of Mr. Wolf, Vice-Chair James White continued to conduct the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Rev. King, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the minutes of the December 19, 2019 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The January Financial Statement was presented by Mr. Imhoff. He noted that the liquid fuels funds are allocated to the Commission from the County and are used to cover staff salaries and expenses incurred in coordination activities associated with the County bridge repair/rehabilitation program. On a motion by Rev. King, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the January Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDTABLE

Several "good news" initiatives were shared including the establishment of the Johnstown Welcome Center at 416 Main Street; HOPE for Johnstown initiatives; reorganization of EPIC (Emerging Young Professionals in Cambria); Ghost Town Trail named Pennsylvania's 2020 Trail of the Year; and an upcoming Emergency Preparedness Seminar to be held in Johnstown.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff reminded the members of a recent e-mail notifying the members that Toni Anderson tendered her resignation from the Planning Commission, effective January 9, 2020. He stated that although Ms. Anderson has moved from the area, she expressed her enjoyment in working with everyone during her 20-year tenure and will miss serving in this capacity.

Mr. Imhoff explained that according to the Commission's bylaws, this vacancy must be filled with an individual who resides in one of the following municipalities: Cambria Township, Cassandra Borough, Cresson Borough/Township, Croyle Township, Ebensburg Borough, Ehrenfeld Borough, Gallitzin Borough/Township, Jackson Township, Lily Borough, Munster Township, Portage Borough/Township, Sankertown Borough, South Fork Borough, Summerhill Borough/Township, Tunnelhill Borough, Washington Township or Wilmore Borough. Mr. Imhoff requested the Commissioners, as well as the Commission members, to inform him if they know of anyone who might be interested in serving on the Commission.

STATUS REPORTS

In lieu of January status reports, Mr. Imhoff provided an update on the Johnstown Housing Strategy, noting that the project is moving into the strategy development phase. A hand-out detailing initial findings about the housing market; target market demographics; key takeaways; geographic focus area; strategic planning considerations; and a negative equity resolution strategy. Mr. Imhoff reviewed the information presented in the hand-out, highlighting that because the appeal of downtown living is somewhat limited, target market demographics need to focus on married couple households with no children; empty-nesters; and nonfamily households, all with incomes of at least \$50,000. He further explained that statistics indicate that a "willingness" issue will be a major factor for market-rate development within the city; however, it can also be realistically estimated that with attractive housing development and investments in supportive amenities, approximately 70-100 occupied units of market-rate housing may be captured over the next ten years. The geographic focus area, as well as potential downtown housing development and financing options for such development, was discussed at length.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Topics briefly noted by staff and members included: Positive interest in reviving the State Theater, currently part of the Lee Hospital Campus; closing of the Franklin Street Bridge necessitated by rehabilitation work on the structure; upcoming promotion of the 2020 Census; and a homeless count to take place on January 22nd, coordinated by the Blair County Community Action Program.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Rev. King, seconded by Mr. Rovansek. Motion passed unanimously.