

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
February 20, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Eric Wolf
Ronald M. Rovansek
Russell Kiel
Debra Orner
Lonnie Batdorf
Diane Waksmunski
Rev. Sylvia King

ABSENT

James White

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 Rev. King, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the minutes of the January 16, 2020 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE

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

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that the Cambria County MPO formally endorsed Johnstown Area Heritage Association's request for Multimodal Transportation funding to complete an engineering study of the Johnstown Train Station. He explained that the information obtained through the engineering study will be used to seek funding to renovate the facility so that it can be marketed for business development.

Mr. Imhoff stated that the most recent Alleghenies Ahead podcast focused on the efforts to two local residents to start a regional birthing center in Bedford County. He explained that this venture was precipitated by the closing of the UPMC obstetrics department at Bedford Hospital and is being pursued in an effort to provide obstetric services in closer proximity to individuals residing in Bedford and Fulton counties.

State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests forms were distributed to those present. Mr. Imhoff urged members to return the completed forms to the CCPC office as soon as possible.

Transportation Planning

With regard to transportation related activities, Mr. Allison reported that staff coordinated a meeting of the Cambria County MPO wherein performance measures and targets for highway safety were evaluated and approved. Mr. Allison also reported that CCPC staff, PennDOT District 9-0 staff, and pertinent local officials, have met to discuss the status of the Lake Road Bridge project in Croyle Township and the Red Mill Bridge project in Blacklick Township.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Sosko informed the members that she continues to be involved in promoting the upcoming census. Noting that census-related information is posted on the Commission's social media, Ms. Sosko stated that the Cambria Complete Count Census Committee has developed promotional materials encouraging participation in the upcoming census and continues to strategize how best to disseminate the information to the public. Ms. Sosko apprised the members that Gisele Fetterman, Second Lady of Pennsylvania, has included Johnstown as a stop on her census-promotional tour. Her visit is scheduled for Monday, March 9th at the Johnstown YMCA.

Ms. Sosko reported that LTAP classes have been scheduled and marketing of the sessions will continue. She noted that 2020 LTAP classes will be held at the County's Human Services Building in Ebensburg.

Senior Planner

Noting that the Johnstown Housing Strategy is now transitioning into the strategy development phase, Ms. Kinka stated that she participated in several discussions focusing on the details of a realistic financial framework to foster development of market-rate housing in downtown Johnstown. She informed the members that staff will be participating in a meeting with Bridgeway Capital Partners and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies which will focus on market-rate housing initiatives and renovation of the State Theater on Main Street.

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation Planner, Chris Allison, provided an informative presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, which is currently being developed by Commission staff. He reviewed the timeline of the project which includes public meetings and an on-line survey to garner public input; review and analysis of public comment by staff and steering committee members; development of goals and objectives for the update; preparation of the draft LRTP and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); final approval by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and

submission to PennDOT. A brief discussion was held concerning promotion of the on-line survey and initial public feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wolf stated that Russell Kiel, Debra Orner, Lonnie Batdorf, and James White have agreed to serve on a Personnel Committee. He noted that the committee will meet prior to 2021 budget preparations so that personnel/salary recommendations can be included in the budgeting process.

On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Rovanseck, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.