

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
April 16, 2020

Due to Governor Wolf's stay-at-home orders pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held via teleconference on Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 12 noon. The meeting and teleconference line were publicly advertised pursuant to public notice. All CCPC members and staff attended via teleconference.

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

PRESENT

Eric Wolf  
James White  
Ronald M. Rovanseck  
Russell Kiel  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Debra Orner  
Rev. Sylvia King

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public participated in the teleconference and no public comment was offered at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Noting that the March CCPC meeting was cancelled due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 situation, Mr. Wolf called for approval/comments of the February minutes. On a motion by Mr. Batdorf, seconded by Mr. White, the minutes of the February 20, 2020 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Noting that both the March and April Financial Statements were provided to the members prior to this meeting, Mr. Imhoff read the April Statement, detailing monthly receipts and expenditures. He also requested that the final payment to CZB, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000, be added to the bills listed for payment. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. White made a motion that the April Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved and that the e-mail vote to approve the March Treasurer's Report be ratified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Waksmunski and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff informed the members that, as per State/County guidance, the CCPC office is currently closed to the public, with one staff person working in the office and other staff teleworking from home. He noted that staff members are coordinating their "in-office" days so as to maintain proper social distancing. Mr. Imhoff commented that during this time, a good deal of staff efforts will focus on the Long Range Transportation Plan narrative and finalization of the Johnstown Housing Strategy.

Continuing with his status report, Mr. Imhoff noted that as chair of the Executive Committee of Vision 2025, he has been coordinating with staff and committee members of Vision 2025 to determine how best to proceed with implementation activities. He stated that discussions also included strategies for implementation of the Johnstown Housing Strategy.

Mr. Imhoff stated that a multi-modal transportation BUILD application is being prepared by a coalition of local stakeholders and sponsored by CamTran, to fund renovations at the Johnstown Inclined Plane, the Johnstown Train Station, and the CamTran Transit Center. He explained that the \$15 million federal grant application will require a \$7 million local match commitment from local, state and federal sources. Application deadline is May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison provided an update on the Long Range Transportation Plan as well as meetings and activities relative to Plan development. He stated that good input and discussion was held with attendees at the February public meeting and a meeting with the steering committee in March resulted in a time extension of the on-line survey to garner additional public input. Mr. Allison reported that public input is now being analyzed and incorporated into the narrative of the LRTP. He also stated that he coordinated with PennDOT staff to develop project listings and a fiscally-constrained financial plan. Mr. Allison noted that once the draft document is complete, presented at an agency coordination meeting, and made available for a 30-day public review period, the LRTP will be formally approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in June.

### Community Development Planning

Ms. Sosko presented a brief synopsis of activities and promotional materials designed to encourage participation in the 2020 census. She stated that, to date, the self-response rate in Cambria County is 49%. Ms. Sosko indicated that the Executive Director facilitated a discussion panel consisting of Giselle Fetterman, the Second Lady of Pennsylvania; Frank Janakovic, Mayor of Johnstown; and United Way of the Laurel Highlands staff, which was organized to emphasize the importance of everyone's participation in the 2020 Census. Noting that the Complete Count Census Committee received a \$7,000 grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Ms. Sosko explained that although these funds were earmarked to hold a Census Day Celebration on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the event was cancelled due to restrictions implemented to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. She stated that the committee is now planning to use these funds to promote the Census via social media. Commissioner Chernisky questioned what type of social media would be utilized, i.e., newspaper, website, facebook, etc. He offered the assistance

of the County Commissioners' office to help advertise/promote the Census and urged the Complete Count Committee to expand their promotion efforts, emphasizing that facebook postings reach a large percentage of the County populace. Ms. Sosko thanked Commissioner Chernisky for his offer of assistance and stated that although the committee has not met recently to discuss additional ways to promote the Census, the Planning Commission's website contains printable resources such as flyers and paycheck stuffers.

#### Senior Planner

Ms. Kinka stated that the Johnstown Housing Strategy has been completed and CCPC staff is reviewing the document. She noted that once final edits have been made, the document will be available for review and comment by the Commission members. Continuing to brief the members on this initiative, Ms. Kinka stated that current focus of the Market Rate Housing Strategy is the investigation of strategies to bridge the financial gap in implementing market rate housing projects in the downtown. Ms. Kinka stated that, in this regard, meetings with potential investors, developers, and existing building owners have been held. She noted that staff participated in a meeting with Bridgeway Capital Partners, an investment group from Pittsburgh, and representatives from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to discuss the issue. Ms. Kinka stated that she has also spoken with Johnstown Capital Partners regarding the rehabilitation of existing structures, as well as new development, to provide affordable market-rate housing in the downtown business district.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

Noting that there was no Old Business or New Business to discuss, Mr. Wolf adjourned the meeting.