

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
May 21, 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, May 21, 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
Diane Waksmunski
Debra Orner
Rev. Sylvia King

ABSENT

Lonnie Batdorf

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski, the minutes of the April 16, 2020 CCPC meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Noting that the May Financial Statement was provided to the members prior to this meeting, Mr. Imhoff read the May Treasurer's Report. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. Keil made a motion that the May Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Waksmunski and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that he had received notification from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies that a grant in the amount of \$3,500 has been awarded to assist in the development of a walking trail between Veterans Park in Cresson Township and the Allegheny Portage National Historic Site. He noted that Cresson Township has agreed to construct and maintain the trail.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff noted that Cambria County is currently in the yellow phase under the Commonwealth's reopening plan. As such, the CCPC office continues to be closed to the public, with the majority of staff working remotely. He stated that during this time, engineering firms/surveyors have been encouraged to submit subdivision/land development plans electronically so that staff review and comment can continue without interruption.

Mr. Imhoff reported that during the past month he continued to work with members of the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership and their consultant to develop a BUILD grant application. He explained that, if approved, the \$16 million BUILD application will provide funding for significant improvements to the Johnstown Train Station, Inclined Plane, and the CamTran Transit Center, as well as various streetscape improvements in the vicinity of these multi-modal transportation facilities.

Mr. Imhoff stated that as chair of the Executive Committee of Vision Together 2025, he has been coordinating with staff and other committee members to prepare budget information and a job description for an executive director position to be advertised in the ensuing months.

Providing a brief update on the County bridge program, Mr. Imhoff informed the members that the County Commissioners recently awarded a contract for the repair of County Bridge No. 4 in Northern Cambria Borough. He indicated that the minor repairs to this structure are scheduled to be completed this summer.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison reported that development of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) continued, with staff completing narrative, analyzing data, creating mapping, preparing the financial plan and project listing, and coordinating with PennDOT and CamTran staff to finalize the document. He stated that a draft of the plan has been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and has also been posted to the Planning Commission's website for review by the Agency Coordination Committee members as well as the general public. Noting that public comment will be accepted prior to final adoption of the FFY 2021-2045 LRTP and FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at the June 24, 2020 MPO meeting, Mr. Allison stated that a hard copy of the LRTP will be provided to anyone who wishes to review the document but does not have the capability to access the document on the CCPC's website. Mr. Allison explained that two public meetings will be also held (via conference call/online webinar) to garner public input and comment on the Long Range Transportation planning documents.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Sosko reported that, in addition to her involvement with the LRTP update, she has reorganized and updated the CCPC website and Facebook page. She noted that the Facebook page is widely viewed and has been an excellent public outreach tool for both the LRTP and 2020 Census promotion.

With reference to the 2020 Census, Ms. Sosko stated that the Complete Count Committee has decided that a large portion of the CFA grant, awarded to promote census participation, will be used for advertising. She explained that promotion will include advertising via local news media, i.e., newspaper and television; advertisements on CamTran buses; development and distribution of printed materials; and continued "kudos videos" via social media to municipalities exhibiting good self-response rates. Ms. Sosko noted that door-to-door efforts are scheduled to be conducted in August.

Senior Planner

Noting that she too has been working on various elements of the Long Transportation Plan, Ms. Kinka addressed several other initiatives in which she has participated during the past month. She stated that, as a member of Johnstown's Walk Works committee, she assisted in the development of a new Complete Streets Policy for the City. Rev. King noted that City Council has adopted this policy which will guide the direction and vision on multi-modal transportation within the City.

Ms. Kinka reported that the Downtown Johnstown Market-Rate Housing Strategy is now being referred to as "Elevate Johnstown." She indicated that the final draft of the document is being edited to reflect input from both the steering committee and interested parties.

Ms. Kinka informed the members of her participation on Johnstown's Blight Task Force and the finalization of the Comprehensive Blight Strategy Plan for the City. She stated that the document, which addresses blight, demolition, corridor planning, and redevelopment of key sites throughout the City, is posted on the City's website.

OLD BUSINESS

Updating the members on the redevelopment of the State Theatre in the City's CBD, Mr. Imhoff stated that three proposals were received in response to the City's RFP for the project. He explained that Conemaugh Health System and the City of Johnstown are working together on this initiative and are seeking a strategy to determine the best use of the facility and a mechanism to fund suggested renovations.

Mr. Wolf reminded the members of the Ad Hoc Personnel Committee that they should schedule a meeting prior to 2021 budget preparations to discuss personnel and salary recommendations. Mr. Imhoff stated that he would assist in coordinating this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Although there was no New Business to discuss, Mr. Imhoff suggested that the June 18th CCPC meeting be held via Zoom, an audio/video platform. The members concurred.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Ms. Waksunski. Motion passed unanimously.