

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
December 17, 2020

To assure continued safety and well-being of members and staff, the regular monthly meeting of the CCPC was held via zoom video conference/teleconference on Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 12 noon. The meeting and teleconference line were publicly advertised pursuant to public notice. CCPC members and staff attended via video/teleconference.

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

PRESENT

Eric Wolf  
Russell Kiel  
Diane Waksmunski  
Ronald Rovansek  
Debra Orner  
Rev. Sylvia King  
Danea Koss

ABSENT

Lonnie Batdorf  
James White

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

At this time, Mr. Wolf and Mr. Imhoff welcomed Danae Koss to the Commission. Mr. Imhoff stated that Ms. Koss, who currently serves as the Main Street Manager for Ebensburg Borough, was appointed by the County Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Toni-Renee Anderson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kiel made a motion that the minutes of the November 19, 2020 CCPC meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orner and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff noted that this report, as well as all other pertinent information, was provided to the members prior to this meeting. The December Financial Statement was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by the Commission members. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. Kiel made a motion that the Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovansek and passed unanimously.

Noting that the 2021 budget had been provided to all members prior to this meeting, Mr. Imhoff reviewed the anticipated revenues and expenditures for the upcoming year. He noted that the finalized budget included salary adjustments as approved at the November CCPC meeting. There being no questions or comments on the proposed 2021 budget, Mr. Kiel made a motion that the 2021 CCPC Budget, as submitted, be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orner and passed unanimously.

In another financial matter, Mr. Imhoff requested clarification on a motion made at the November meeting regarding salary adjustments for the Executive Director and the Community Development Planner. Those attending the meeting agreed that the intent of the motion was that salary adjustments for Mr. Imhoff and Ms. Sosko were to become effective December 1, 2020.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

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

#### STATUS REPORTS

##### Executive Director

The Executive Director stated that an area investor has expressed interest in fronting investor capital for a pilot housing project in downtown Johnstown. He explained that the pilot project is a result of the recently-completed Johnstown Housing Strategy and involves leveraging investor capital with bank financing for development of 5-10 market-rate residential units. Mr. Imhoff explained that the private investment funds are considered "patient capital" because the investment will have a limited short-term rate of return with long-term opportunities. Mr. Imhoff stated that more information on this initiative will be forthcoming.

Mr. Imhoff apprised the members that the Commission is moving forward with the shared services study with the four West Hills municipalities of Lower and Upper Yoder Townships and Brownstown and Westmont Boroughs. He noted that each municipality has approved the scope of services and PA DCED has assigned a peer consultant to the project. Mr. Imhoff explained that the goal of the study will be to identify ways to consolidate and improve public service, thereby providing cost-savings to each municipality.

Mr. Imhoff noted that interviews are being scheduled for the final three Executive Director candidates for Vision Together 2025. Official announcement for the position is expected in January, 2021.

##### Transportation Planner

Updating the members on various transportation-related initiatives, Mr. Allison reported that he participated in an online public meeting focused on the update of the PA State Rail Plan. Explaining that the rail plan incorporates both passenger and rail freight statewide, Mr. Allison stated that he provided comments on behalf of the Cambria MPO in support of additional passenger rail service between Johnstown and Pittsburgh. He also noted that Norfolk Southern has been studying what impact this additional service would have on their rail lines.

With regard to the William Penn Avenue Corridor Study, Mr. Allison reported that staff coordination meetings are continuing, with information about the plan development being posted to the Commission's website. He stated that efforts to develop a mail/on-line survey aimed at garnering information from individuals with an interest in the Prospect community, specifically those who reside or operate businesses along the corridor, and members of the public who frequently travel along the corridor, are continuing. Mr. Allison also noted that due to the current COVID-19 situation, zoom meetings with stakeholders are also being considered.

Mr. Allison apprised the members of the revisions to the Johnstown BUILD application, noting that project stakeholders are assessing the short-comings of the previous application and refining priorities and scope of the application. He stated that improvements to the Inclined Plane cannot be included in the next application since the project has already been fully funded through another source.

The Transportation Planner noted that he facilitated and participated in a meeting of the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) technical and coordinating committees in mid-November.

#### Community Development

Ms. Sosko reported that with regard to the William Penn Corridor project, she has been instrumental in developing the website outreach information needed to garner public comments and resident/business input for the plan. She also stated that once the mail/on-line survey has been finalized, she will post the survey on the CCPC website and will assist in developing a mailing list for the survey and promotional flyers.

Ms. Sosko stated that utilizing the County's Geographic Information System, she had continued efforts to develop a map depicting bicycle and pedestrian assets throughout the County as part of the update to the Connecting Cambria Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. She noted that the map will depict new and completed trails, major parks, and trailheads. Ms. Sosko indicated that she has also begun preparation of the narrative which will provide explanations of the updates made to the assets map and provide more detailed information on trails initiated/completed since the last update.

Ms. Sosko reported that she continues to review subdivisions/land developments and perform routine updates to the CCPC website and Facebook on an as-needed basis.

#### Senior Planner

Apprising the members of implementation activities of the market-rate housing strategy, *Elevate Johnstown*, Ms. Kinka reported that she planned and facilitated a presentation by czb, LLC to local investors, stakeholders, and advocates. She stated that the zoom presentation included a high-level overview of the strategy, how to utilize the action plan, and how to identify the highest priority/most feasible projects.

Ms. Kinka reported that she participated in a planning meeting for the Different Strokes public art subcommittee of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion capture team to discuss the coordination efforts with the Rural

Arts Collaborative. She stated that because using PennDOT infrastructure for a mural canvas is not feasible at this time, the public art subcommittee is looking for a private building in the downtown area to host this type of artwork.

Ms. Kinka updated the members on Vision Together 2025 endeavors to engage and recruit the next generation of future community leaders. Ms. Kinka noted that although this initiative is proving to be challenging, she has connected with the area YMCA in an effort to get input from underserved individuals and to provide a community platform where everyone can lend their voice and leadership qualities. In addition, Ms. Kinka indicated that she met with representatives from the local chapter of the American Association for University Women (AAUW) to discuss collaboration opportunities that focus on cultivating the next generation of future leaders in the community. The Senior Planner stated that efforts continue toward the development of a survey to be distributed to area-wide organizations requesting information pertaining to their advisory/oversight/leadership needs. Commissioner Chernisky suggested that the survey also be sent to every County board/authority/commission, as well as every municipality and school district in the County. He also noted that the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office is a valuable source for educational workshops/seminars focused on how individuals can best serve on governmental boards.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

There being no Old Business or New Business to discuss at this meeting, Mr. Imhoff wished all a happy holiday season and best wishes for 2021. On behalf of the CCPC staff, Mr. Imhoff thanked the Commission members for their dedication and support, particularly during this unprecedented past year.

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Wolf adjourned the meeting.