

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
June 17, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Wolf called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Eric Wolf  
James White  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Russ Kiel  
Danea Koss  
Ron Rovansek  
Debra Orner  
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Rev. Sylvia King

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Commissioner Scott Hunt

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. White, the minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The June 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 June 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 read at this meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff commented that it is a pleasure to gather for an in-person meeting once again, noting that virtual meetings have been held since April 2020. He then continued with his June status report, stating that a large portion of his time and effort has been devoted to coordination

activities and finalization of the City of Johnstown RAISE application. In response to several questions, Mr. Imhoff explained that the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) program, designed to provide funding for transportation infrastructure improvements, is a rebranding of the former BUILD program. Mr. Imhoff reported that, in an effort to highlight the Johnstown RAISE application and to garner support for the application, he and other local stakeholders have met with or plan to meet with State Senator Langerholc, Chair of the PA Senate Transportation Committee; U.S. Senator Pat Toomey; and Congresswoman Sharice Davids, Vice-Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation Committee.

With regard to anticipated American Rescue Plan Act funding, Mr. Imhoff stated that although he has read guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury, there is still a need for more clarification on eligible expenditures. He indicated that, in anticipation of receipt of this funding, he participated in several meetings to discuss proposed projects and priorities. He commented that Vision Together 2025 hosted a two-day strategic planning event wherein Johnstown city council members, local stakeholders, and the general public were invited to provide feedback on Vision Together's list of priority and catalytic projects. The County Commissioners and CCPC staff also met to discuss the best utilization of American Rescue Act funding at the County level.

Mr. Imhoff reported that a great deal of staff time has been devoted to investigating a waterline issue at the Red Mill Bridge site in Blacklick Township. Noting that the structure is a county-owned bridge, Mr. Imhoff apprised the members of the situation and explained that the Commission staff will facilitate meetings between affected individuals, the County solicitor, the County Commissioners, and Blacklick Township Supervisors in an effort to resolve the issue.

#### Transportation Planning

Adding to Mr. Imhoff's report on the Johnstown RAISE application, Mr. Allison reported that City Council approved, by resolution, the City as grant applicant for this major transportation project. He indicated that he continues his role as coordinator during the final stages of grant preparation, working with project stakeholders and the consultant to ensure that the application will be complete and ready for submission by the July 12, 2021 deadline.

Providing an update on the William Penn Avenue Corridor Study, Mr. Allison stated that a community meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> in the City's Prospect neighborhood. He explained that the noon-5:00 p.m. forum will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the corridor plan, discuss the results of the public outreach survey, and share concerns and ideas with Commission staff.

Mr. Rovanseck inquired about remediation efforts pertaining to a sink hole in the vicinity of Goucher Street and D Street as well as the status of improvements to Franklin Street. Mr. Allison indicated that PA DOT personnel are currently assessing the Goucher Street situation to determine the best course of action. He also noted that the Franklin Street project is underway and involves reconfiguration of the corridor to accommodate bicycle lanes and improvements to pedestrian crossings.

## Community Development

Ms. Sosko reported that her most recent work efforts focused on mapping associated with the William Penn Avenue corridor and preparation of notices for the public forum. She stated that meeting notices have been mailed to residents and provided to Rev. King for distribution as well.

Updating the members on GIS mapping which can be viewed via the CCPC website, Ms. Sosko stated that she completed a map depicting yearly progress of new trail development in Cambria County. She explained that the map identifies the progress made on various bicycle and pedestrian trails from 2018 to the present. As reported at the May CCPC meeting, Ms. Sosko stated that she has been researching the feasibility of preparing mapping which would depict the percentage of people in Cambria County who live within walking distance of an established cycling/walking trail. She explained that in order to get accurate information, this initiative will be put on hold until 2020 Census data is available.

Ms. Sosko stated that she recently attended a meeting with Tunnelhill Borough officials to discuss a grant application to fund a major repaving and sidewalk project in the borough. Noting that several members of the borough council are interested in forming a borough planning commission, Ms. Sosko stated she and the Executive Director will assist with this endeavor as much as possible.

Noting that although virtual LTAP classes have not been well attended, Ms. Sosko stated that she continues to promote the program through regular mailings to all municipalities in the county. She stated that she recently met with SAPDC and Blair County staff to schedule in-person classes which are expected to resume in the Fall.

## Senior Planning

Apprising the members of activities associated with implementation of the market-rate housing strategy, *Elevate Johnstown*, Ms. Kinka reported that she prepared and submitted a grant application to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies in the amount of \$100,000 to assist with development costs associated with a pilot market-rate housing project. She noted that she continues to coordinate and participate in conversations and meetings with potential investors, community stakeholders, and the development team to further promote the priorities and goals of the housing strategy.

Ms. Kinka stated that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team of Vision Together 2025 has identified a site for its first mural project. Noting that PennDOT has been slow in providing guidelines for development of mural projects along state roadways, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team of Vision Together 2025 has pivoted away from the Route 56 retaining wall site and has located an alternate site near the Children's Musical Park on Locust Street in downtown Johnstown. She stated that the mural will be painted on a building currently housing Blaine Boring Chocolates.

With regard to bicycle/pedestrian planning and assets, Ms. Kinka stated that new continuous on-road bicycle lanes have been developed along Franklin Street and Ferndale Avenue in the City of Johnstown. Explaining that the lanes are marked and dedicated to bicycle traffic, Ms. Kinka

expressed enthusiasm that this transportation infrastructure will improve safety for current bicycling enthusiasts and help to promote bicycling as a means of transportation within the City.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff commented that updates to the CCPC Bylaws have been sent to the County Commissioners for review and comment. He noted that these amendments will be considered for official action at a future CCPC meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff apprised the members that the RFQ for audit proposals for the years ending June 30, 2021, 2022 and 2023 had been advertised. He stated that BarnesSaly & Company P.C. submitted the lone proposal to perform the auditing services at a cost of \$5,300 per year. Noting that the cost proposal is consistent with past audit costs, Mr. Imhoff stated that the Commission has been satisfied with previous audits performed by BarnesSaly. On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Kiel, the audit proposal submitted by BarnesSaly & Company P.C. for the years ending June 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023 was accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

Reminding the members that no CCPC meeting will be held in July, Mr. Wolf adjourned the meeting.