



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, September 28 at 7:00pm

LVPC Conference Room

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Minutes

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Dreisbach chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Steve Glickman, Julio Guridy, Kent Herman, Ed Hozza, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, David Kimmerly, Sara Pandl, Stephen Repasch, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Tim Herrlinger, Bob Lammi, Tom Nolan, David O'Connell, Pam Pearson, Hayden Phillips, Michael Reph, Tina Roseberry

Members absent: Karen Duerholz, Owen O'Neil, Brad Osborne, Kathy Rader, Kevin Schmidt, Julie Thomases, George Gemmel, Darlene Heller, Kevin Lott

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Geoff Reese, Amanda Raudenbush, John von Kerczek, Jill Seitz, Tracy Oscavich, Matt Assad, Mike Donchez, Sue Rockwell

Public present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the August 2017 meeting were moved for approval by Ms. Pearson. Mr. Hozza seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Pandl, Mr. Diacogiannis, Mr. Reph and Mr. Elliott abstaining.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Ordinance/Plan Reviews

Ms. Wright referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on other proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Clater seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Environment Committee

Project Review – Summary Sheet

Mr. Repasch refers the commission to the summary sheet where the Plainfield Township submitted a Municipal Waste Permit Renewal Application for existing Grand Central Sanitary Landfill. No changes to the facility, operation, permit area or capacity are proposed. The facility is permitted to handle 2,750 tons per day of solid waste and they are on a ten-year renewal cycle. This renewal does not conflict with the County Comprehensive Plan and the PA Department of Environmental Protection performs the technical review of the application. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the staff comments. Ms. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Multi-Modal Transportation Working Group

Ms. Bradley talked about the resolution for the Multi-Modal Working Group and how that was passed by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study Technical Committee and will be going to the LVTS Coordinating Committee for adoption early next week. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed where different types of modes that intersect – bikes and pedestrian connections, transit stop connections, sidewalks, etc. There's been talk about how to support additional biking infrastructure and how to explore the potential for regional bike share. The LVPC received funding for the Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan which will be kicking off within the next couple of months with a consultant. Because of the multi-modal issues, it was decided to get a committee together of the whole through LVTS along with anyone else who would want to join, similar to the Freight Advisory Committee. The meetings would be held as needed and there is no limit on membership.

Autonomous Vehicle Conference

Ms. Bradley stated that Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Leslie Richards, brought together people around the state to State College for a forum on autonomous vehicles. PA is a leader nationwide in autonomous vehicle technology with the Pittsburgh area being a significant testing ground for this. Now the State College area is involved with this technology with a testing track available. Fully autonomous vehicles already exist with multiple manufacturers making them and the vehicles are being trained. One of the topics was how to position the communities and infrastructure to be available for the rapidly approaching autonomous vehicle technology. A big conversation was what this means for land use, parking, drop-off and loading and what this means for zoning from a land development perspective and where we are as a whole. LVPC Commissioner, Mr. Campbell went to the conference as well and was able to bring back video of an automated vehicle to view. There will be experts brought in on this topic for the Future Forces

event happening on December 6th. As the Regional Comprehensive Plan, TIP and Long-Range Transportation Plan are 20-year plans, this information will be key.

OLD BUSINESS

Lehigh Valley Government Academy @ LVPC Office – 5:30pm-9:00pm

The upcoming LVGA courses are Zoning being held on Wednesday, October 4th, 11th, and 18th and Subdivision + Land Development will be held on Wednesday, November 1st, 8th, and 15th.

Reaching for the Future + Creative Financing Report

The LVPC is partnering with the Urban Land Institute in hosting this event coming up on October 5th at 7:30am at Symphony Hall. It will feature speaker Tom Murphy, the former Mayor of Pittsburgh along with other guest speakers JB Reilly of City Center, Gene Goldfeder Manager of Catasauqua Borough, Mark Mulligan CEO of VM Development and Amanda Raudenbush Director of Community Planning of LVPC.

Gala + Awards Preparation

It's been encouraged for everyone to register for the 4th Annual Lehigh Valley Awards Gala coming up on October 17th. Ms. Bradley noted that there were a significant number of applications received this year and she thanked all those who helped to judge those projects.

NEW BUSINESS

BuildLV Annual Development Report + Outlook

Ms. Bradley talked about how the LVPC partnered with the Chamber of Commerce for the BuildLV event with about 150 people in attendance at ArtsQuest where the BuildLV report was released. It was also presented to the Lehigh County Commissioners last evening. This report summarizes the building activity over the last 12 months of the year, gives a summary of the first 6 months of this year and then an outlook of where plan activity is going to go and what's actually happening. Ms. Bradley then went through the plan with the Full Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

National Community Planning Month

Ms. Bradley talked about how the month of October is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the USA and at the Executive Committee last week, they designated in for the Lehigh Valley as well. This is an opportunity to highlight the contributions planning and planning implementation makes to the quality of our communities and environment as well as publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning commissions and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the region. The LVPC will be recognizing this at the annual Lehigh Valley Awards Gala on October 17th at DeSales University.

EVENTS + INFORMATION

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office

The upcoming Local Technical Assistance Program classes are Stormwater Facility Operation + Maintenance on October 6 from 8am-12pm and Roadside Vegetation Control on December 12 from 8am-3pm – all at LVPC.

Future Forces Event

The Future Forces Event will be held on December 6th at Lehigh University with some great topics and speakers.

ADJOURN

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herrlinger seconded that motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,
Erin Willis, Executive Secretary for
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director