



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, November 17 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, November 17, 2016 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, Steven Glickman, Kent Herman, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright

Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Darlene Heller, Robert Lammi, Thomas Nolan, Pam Pearson, Lynn Prior, Michael Reph

Members absent: Karen Duerholz, Armand Greco, Edward Hozza, Richard Molchany, Christina Morgan, Steven Neratko, Brad Osborne, Sara Pandl, Kevin Schmidt, Julie Thomases, Christen Borso, Charles Elliot, George Gemmel, Tim Herrlinger, Kevin Lott, Shawn Martell, Hayden Phillips, Tina Roseberry

Staff present: Becky Bradley, Erin Willis, Eric McAfee, George Kinney, Geoff Reese, Tracy Oscavich

Public present: Lou Gombocz, Jr., WFMZ, Teddy Chung, Laura Oh

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

MINUTES

Ms. Willis failed to include the minutes from October 27, 2016. They will included at the next LVPC meeting.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Ordinance Plan Reviews – Summary Sheet

Mr. McAfee talked about the summary sheet's first three items – (1) Zoning Ordinance Amendment in Plainfield Township for modification of regulations for wireless communication facilities; (2) SALDO Amendments in Allen Township for street and curb construction, and wetlands/waterway encroachment; (3) Zoning Ordinance Amendments in Lehigh Township for public Right-of-Way management for communications facilities – all of which were covered during the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday. The fourth (4) item is a resubmission of last month's Medical Marijuana Ordinance with some very slight changes. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the Summary Sheet. Mr. Dougherty seconded that motion. The motion passed with Mr. Diacogiannis abstaining to #4 and Mr. Clater abstaining to #2.

Environment Committee

Livable Landscapes – Lehigh County Park, Recreation, Open Space, Agriculture & Historical Resources Plan – Survey

Mr. Reese spoke about working on the Lehigh Livable Landscapes Surveys. There are three different surveys, the first one is a random survey of Lehigh County residents on what they think about all the various components on Livable Landscapes – natural lands, farmlands, recreation, agriculture, etc. The second survey is one that would specifically go out to farmers, get their opinions on how their farms are doing and specifically what issues do they see? We're starting the process for this survey – we met with a group of people including the farmers that are part of Lehigh County Sterling Raber Agricultural Preservation Board as well as representatives from The Seed Farm in Lehigh County, Penn State Extension and also representatives from the Lehigh County Farm Bureau. There was a very lively conversation for about 3 hours talking about the kinds of questions these people thought we might include in the survey. The third survey we are working on is for the municipalities in Lehigh County to get information on their parks and recreation facilities. We are working on a map for each community and a series of questions to be answered.

Transportation Committee

Traffic Safety Plan

Mr. Kinney talked about the Safety Plan and how it gets updated every two years. This is an assessment of Crash Data – data recorded to the state by police officers that are on

the scene of a crash. They will pull certain data from the citation and reports. The state puts it in a state-wide database. This plan is a five-year increment plan from 2010-2014 and is always a five-year reporting period. The plan focuses on areas called the "vital seven". They are Reducing Impaired Driving; Reducing Speeding & Aggressive Driving; Reducing Distracted Driving; Increasing Seat Belt Usage; Infrastructure Improvements; Mature Driver Safety; Motorcycle Safety. Please see the report for statistical details. Mr. Diacogiannis moved to accept the Traffic Safety Plan. Mr. Repasch seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Critical Urban Freight Corridors

Mr. Kinney talked about Critical Urban Freight Corridors and how they are basically an extension of the National Highway Freight System. For us it's Interstate 78 and Interstate 476. Those two segments are already designated so no work needs to be done. Mr. Kinney used a tool called the Freight Advisory Tool which provides Transearch Data which is the same data that supported our Regional Freight Plan and the State Freight Plan. Mr. Kinney talked about the other major roadways showing Pennsylvania Top Freight Generators which used the Transearch Data to talk about areas in the Valley that have a lot of Freight Finder Data Points. Another layer to the map is the 25% truck traffic which we don't see too much of in the Valley. But there are a few spots with that percentage along Route 78 and Route 22. Mr. Kinney also pointed out the state recognized inter-modal facilities. Those are the things we took from the state as part of our analysis. Then we added some things to that from the regional perspective. We added congestive corridors, crash corridor, along with some of our tonnage data. Mr. Kinney talked about the federal criteria being – does your recognized urban freight corridor connect to an inter-modal; is it located in a corridor or route on a primary highway freight system, i.e. Route 78 or Route 476; does it serve a major freight generator; is important to the movement of freight in the region. We then run all these data points through the GIS analysis. Mr. Kinney then showed a PPT where he talked about the 11 segments that were identified with the background of all the data. Mr. Kinney noted the Average Annual Daily Traffic Trip it is not about cars but talking only about trucks. The 11 segments are: Route 22 from Airport Road to the I-78 merge; Route 33 from I-78 to Main St; Route 222 from I-78 to Schantz Road; Route 100 from Tilghman Street to Route 222; Route 412 from I-78 to Commerce Blvd; Tilghman Street from Route 309 to Route 100; Schantz Road from Route 100 to Route 222; Airport Road from Route 22 to Race Street; balance of Route 33 from Main St to Carbon/Monroe city line; Airport Road from Route 22 to Loyd Street; Lehigh Street from I-78 to Vultee Street. We then put all the data into a spreadsheet with segment numbers to come up with the priorities. This will be presented to LVPC and LVTS.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Planning + Pizza – FutureLV

Ms. Bradley encouraged everyone who has not already to sign-up asap for the FutureLV Forum happening on December 2nd at the Sands Bethlehem Event Center. The event features guest speaker, Scott Kinney, Senior Vice President for Discovery Communications/Education and will talk about technological advancements and innovations and education and that is a future force that will effects our Lehigh Valley because this will be called the FutureLV effort so we want to accommodate the things we know as well as the things that are changing so that's one of the big focuses on

comp planning coming up is it's just as much aspirational as well as implementable. This will be the fifth comprehensive plan for the region. It'll be roughly a 24 month process.

Ms. Bradley talked about the Planning + Pizza we will be hosting for FutureLV on December 21st. This will be a follow-up from our FutureLV forum for those who were not able to attend the Regional Comprehensive Plan kick-off.

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Bradley stated that the Freight Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on December 19th @ 11:30am at ArtsQuest and encouraged those who are interested to please register. It is a neutral platform for people to come together and talk about and collaborate on issues of freight within our region. We will have the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission as well as the North Jersey Planning Transportation Authority presenting their freight initiatives and how that ties into our freight initiatives as well as discussing more of the critical urban freight corridors that George and his team have done.

CORRESPONDENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Bradley spoke about the Annual Meeting which will be held at LVPC at 11am and how we will be taking the Commission picture during that time. We will be having lunch immediately after the meeting where we'll be passing the budget and work plan.

Ms. Bradley stated that this year the staff decided that we will be collecting food for various food banks and shelters including things like shampoo and socks in addition to food. She encouraged everyone to bring something to the Annual Meeting so we can share it with the community.

ADJOURN

Ms. Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pearson seconded that motion. Ms. Dreisbach adjourned the meeting.

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