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LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday, June 28, 2018 Meeting

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Leonard took Roll Call – Quorum Obtained.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Mike Gibson, Steve Glickman, Julio Guirdy, Kent Herman, Miriam Huertas, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, Douglas Stewart, Christine Weaver.

Northampton County

Debra Bodine, Eugene Clater, Janell Connolly, Malissa Davis, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Jamie Horvath, Robert Lammi, Pamela Pearson, Tina Roseberry, Tina Smith and Greg Zebrowski.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, Dennis Hower, Ray O'Connell, Owen O'Neil, Brad Osborne, Kathy Rader and Donna Wright.

Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, Robert Donchez, Kevin Lott, Shawn Martell, Lamont McClure, William McGee, Salvatore Panto and Gerald Yob.

Staff Present: Matt Assad, Becky Bradley, Whitney Burdge, Mike Donchez, Denise Leonard, Tracy Oscavich, Chandra Parasa, Amanda Raudenbush, Geoff Reese, Sue Rockwell, Jill Seitz, and John von Kerczek.

Public Present: Frank D'Ascensio

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: No Comments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

New Commissioner Recognition

Mr. Repasch recognized Janelle Connolly – Northampton County.

MAY MINUTES

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the May 31, 2018 LVPC meeting are attached. Mr. Gibson made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

1. Ordinance/Plan Reviews Summary Sheet

Ms. Dreisbach referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on other proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Elliott and Ms. Roseberry abstaining.

Environment Committee:

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Draft Plan Presentation

Mr. Reese presented a draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan which has been in the works for the last ten months. The presentation was shown live via LVPC's website where the 145 page document lives. Navigation on the site: LVPC website – Environment – Hazard Mitigation. The Lehigh Valley has had a Hazard Mitigation Plan since 2007 but the federal government requires the plan be regularly updated. The current plan is in effect until October 10, 2018 and all 62 municipalities are involved. The plan must identify how it differs from the previous plan. The presentation focused on the following key components of the plan:

Section 4 – Risk Assessment: This section includes a summary of natural (e.g. floods, earthquake and drought) and non-natural (e.g. drug overdose) hazards, description of each hazard, repetitive loss (loss to a single property more than once) and the level of risk that the Lehigh Valley faces.

Section 6 – Mitigation Strategy: This section identifies the plan of action that each municipality wants to accomplish to minimize the risk that they face to these hazards. In order to accomplish these the plan identifies a series of eight goals along with objectives and actions. The plan then takes the 1,162 actions and put them into 28 general categories and identifies the five key priorities associated with implementing the plan.

Public comment is open through August 3rd.

Transportation Committee

1. Eastern PA Freight Summit

Ms. Bradley provided a recap of the Eastern PA Freight Summit hosted by LVPC in conjunction with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on June 21 – 22 which focused on the infrastructure impacts of the growing freight economy and what that means to our infrastructure system. The summit included presentations from the economic advisor to the World Bank to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Leslie Richards along with panel discussions ranging from land use to issues around truck parking. Both days of the summit were sold out with 230 people attending on Thursday and tours to Zulilly (distribution facility) and Mack Trucks (industrial facility) on Friday. The event was designed not only to educate but to start a dialogue on a very rapidly changing economic situation, two key items to point out:

(1) 9% of retail today happens over the internet or mobile device. What happens when that is 25%, 50% or 90% as predicted over the next twenty years? What does the mean for truck movements? What does it mean for bridge infrastructure?

(2) Supports the federal highway initiative to support areas with high growth in freight with additional funding resources.

Special thank you to Tracy Oscavich who raised \$15,000 in sponsorships.

2. Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Donchez provided an update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which was adopted by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study on June 6, 2018. The total value of the programs is \$534 million in total broken down \$144 million for bridges, \$244 million for highways and \$146 million for transit. The TIP will be handed off to PennDOT Central Office at the July 11 LVTS meeting and then ultimately to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Once USDOT approval is issued (expected late September) then it will go live on October 1, 2018; for the next four years.

3. Lehigh Valley International Airport Area Study Update

Mr. Parasa provided an update of several round table discussions last week. Both municipal and economic roundtable sessions included important discussions focused on land use in the area, speed of trucks, parking on the shoulders and the influx of traffic. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2018.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 5th Annual LVPC Gala & Awards – October 10, DeSales University

Ms. Oscavich reminded everyone of the call for nominations in nine categories which are due on July 20. An explanation of how the nominations will be judged along with the guidelines for the nominations was provided.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. FutureLV: Working Group

Ms. Bradley reminded the group of the next meeting on July 16, 2018 @ LVPC, 3:00 p.m. The meeting will focus on scenarios on the development for the Lehigh Valley as response from the community surveys presented during the last meeting.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Oscavich recapped the upcoming Public Engagement and Participation Events:

1. Local Technical Assistant Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office

- Traffic Calming – August 8 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Road Safety Audit – September 11 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Salt and Snow Management – Will now be held on November 13 @ City of Allentown

2. Public Participation

- Women in Transportation + Government – Fall

3. Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Planning & Pizza – July 10 @ LVPC Office, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Public Meeting - July 10 @ Iron Works Municipal Building, Catasauqua, 7:00 p.m.
- Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network Green Drinks – July 11 @ Allentown Brew Works, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

4. 5th Annual LVPC Gala and Lehigh Valley Awards – October 10 @ DeSales University, Center Valley, 4:00 p.m.

5. Lehigh Valley Government Academy @ LVPC Office, 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- Community Planning – Thursday, September 6, 13, 20
- Zoning Administration – Tuesday, October 16, 23, 30
- Subdivision and Land Development Review – Thursday, November 1, 8, 15

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Repasch seconded the motion.

Submitted by:

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant