



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7 PM

LVPC Conference Room

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Willis took roll call.

Members in attendance:

Lehigh County

Steve Glickman, Julio Guridy, Kent Herman, Ed Hoza, Rick Molchany, Christina Morgan, Douglas Stewart, Sara Pandl, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt

Northampton County

Gordon Campbell, Gene Clater, John Diacogiannis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Tina Smith, Bob Lammi, Kevin Lott, Shawn Martell, William McGee, Tom Nolan, Pam Pearson, Tina Roseberry

Members absent: Owen O'Neil, Brad Osborne, Christine Weaver, Donna Wright, Mitchell Mogilski, Darlene Heller, Debra Bodine, Gerald Yob

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

Public present: Joshua Gaffrey – College Hill; Brad Flynn – Bath Borough

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: none

MINUTES

After a brief review, the minutes of the January 2018 meeting were moved for approval by Mr. Clater. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Elliott, Ms. Pandl, Mr. Martell and Mr. Molchany abstaining.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Repasch recognized new Commission members Shawn Martell and Tina Smith from Northampton County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Allentown City – Land Use of Regional Significance – Five City Center Office Tower

Ms. Raudenbush reviewed an application proposing to replace three existing buildings with one new building located on the corner of West Hamilton Street and South 8th Street. The existing buildings will be razed to allow construction of a 13-story building that will house 4,500 square feet of retail on the first floor, and 246,500 square feet of office space in the remainder of the building, for a total of 251,000 square feet. The subject application is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed development redevelops existing buildings in an area designated for Urban Development in the General Land Use Plan and will be served by existing water, sewage, and transportation infrastructure. Due to its location near compatible land uses and existing infrastructure, the proposed development minimizes negative impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The planned development will result in a net impact of 2,001 vehicle trips per day after the demolition of the existing uses and associated current trips are calculated. Extensive transportation studies were conducted within the site area for numerous projects and many transportation improvements were implemented in the vicinity. No notable transportation impacts that have not been addressed by the City or other developments were noted. The LVPC encourages the developer to provide bicycle amenities such as bike racks along the frontage of the development to provide encouragement to employees and visitors of the building to use that mode of transportation. LANTA provides public transportation service to the project site, with a northbound bus stop on South 8th Street, nearside of the Hamilton Street intersection. LANTA appreciates the communication received regarding this existing bus stop, and looks forward to reinstalling the bus stop and continuing bus service at this new redeveloped location after construction is completed. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Lammi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Hozza opposing.

Ordinance/Plan Reviews

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. Mr. Clater seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Elliott and Ms. Roseberry abstaining on #2 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment in Easton City; Mr. Diacogiannis and Mr. Campbell abstaining on #1 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment in Hanover Township (NC).

Environment Committee

DRBC Review – Application to Approve an Upgrade of Existing Wynnewood Terrace Wastewater Treatment Plant in North Whitehall Township

DRBC Review – Application to Approve an Upgrade of Existing Sand Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant in North Whitehall Township

Mr. Repasch said there is an upgrade proposed for both wastewater treatment plants located in North Whitehall Township. There is no increase in capacity. Mr. Repasch made a motion to approve the staff comments. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Molchany asked if both wastewater treatment plants are privately owned. Mr. Repasch stated that the Lehigh County Authority owns them. Mr. Molchany said the state is looking for an inventory of all the waste treatment plants in the entire MPO, does Lehigh County have that obligation or do the municipalities? Mr. Reese noted that under the

Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, municipalities are responsible for the proper operation of every sewer system within their boundaries.

Transportation Committee

Bath Multimodal Safety + Parking Analysis

Ms. Burdge shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Bath Multimodal Safety & Parking Analysis. The project goals are safety for all users, adequate parking and connectivity for all users and preparation for future borough growth. Some short-term recommendations are to delineate all existing on-street parking spaces, design and adopt a Complete Streets Policy, introduce more paid parking, and include multimodal policies to the Bath Comprehensive Plan. Some mid-term recommendations are to install urban design and speed-reduction treatments; evaluate impact of the new borough building parking lot; evaluate change of the police department's management impact on annual tickets, collisions and monitor changes in traffic demand in relation to current signal timings. Some long-term recommendations are to convert Mill Street to a truck route alternative, Bridge 115 improvements with pedestrian and cycling improvements and monitor Bridge 248 re-routing effects following PennDOT work in 2019. Ms. Burdge showed some before and after pictures showcasing some of the street improvements that can be incorporated. The potential outcomes of this plan is stronger borough identity, network of safety strategies, spatial and programmatic connectivity, changed perception of parking and increased flexibility and adaptability.

OLD BUSINESS

General Assembly Survey

Ms. Bradley mentioned that the first General Assembly meeting was held on January 30 with 86 attendees. All elected officials as well as the managers received an invite letter requesting attendance by at least one elected official and any staff that the official would like to bring. A post-event survey was sent to each attendee with 18 responding.

Mr. Assad said many who responded didn't realize the various functions that the LVPC performs. Questions asked were "Did you learn anything at the General Assembly that can benefit your community and if so, what?" "What format would you like future General Assembly meetings to use?" "What other topics would you like us to cover?" "Would you recommend future General Assembly meetings to other elected officials and municipal administrators?" 16 of 18 responding said they would recommend attendance at future General Assembly meetings. The next General Assembly meeting will be held on July 31.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Raudenbush gave a PowerPoint presentation on the update of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. We have done the following so far for the plan – FutureLV Kick-Off Event in December 2016; 21 strategy labs totaling 400 participants in 2017; various events and community meetings in the spring, summer and fall of 2017; key influencer interviews; FutureLV Mid-Point Event in December 2017; DataLV – Where we are today (Part 1) in December 2017. The overarching principles emerging from the participation so far are equity; land uses of regional significance; technological advances; globalization (economic/political); efficient, sustainable, effective governments; healthy; nature; livable. Additionally, five main themes emerged from the public participation – Safe and Resilient Natural and Built Environment; Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities; Connected and Multi-Modal Region; Vibrant and Sustainable Regional Economy; Efficient and Predictable Development Pattern. Ms. Raudenbush also went over some examples of data that might be included in the release of

DataLV Part 2. There will be three geospatial plans – Natural Resources Plan; Transportation Plan; General Land Use Plan. Things to come are the all-region survey, scenario development, existing policy analysis and finally getting the completed plan to the Commission in December of 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

EVENTS

Planning + Pizza @ LVPC Office, 12:00pm-1:00pm

The LVPC will be conducting planning and pizza for the various projects being worked on. The upcoming Planning + Pizzas are DataLV on February 23, Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan on March 8, Census 2020 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) on April 17 and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on May 2.

PennDOT Connects Municipal Training – February 27, 1:00pm

On February 27 at 1:00pm, there will be a two-hour training session on the PennDOT Connects initiative regarding better interaction between municipalities and PennDOT that was put forth by Secretary Richards in the PennDOT Connects program. This is for municipal officials to attend. This more strategic approach to engagement will ensure that local priorities and issues are effectively considered as transportation needs and investments are planned and developed.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office

The upcoming Local Technical Assistance Program classes are Bridge Maintenance + Inspection on March 6 from 8:00am-3:00pm, Curves on Local Roads: Issues and Safety Tools on March 29 from 8:00am-12:00pm, Managing Utility Cuts on April 5 from 8:00am-12:00pm and Equipment + Worker Safety on April 12 from 8:00am-12:00pm – all at LVPC.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded that motion. Mr. Repasch adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director