LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday, October 31, 2019 Meeting

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, October 31, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Vazquez took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County
Phillips Armstrong, Bob Elbich, Mike Gibson, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, Christina Morgan, Owen O’Neil, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, and Kevin Schmidt

Northampton County
Christopher Amato, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Susan Lawless, Robert Lammi, Kevin Lott, William McGee, John McGorry, Pamela Pearson, Gerald Yob, and Greg Zebrowski

Members Absent:

Lehigh County
Percy Dougherty, Julio Guridy, Michael Harakal, Miriam Huertas, Marty Nothstein, Leonard Lightner, and Donna Wright

Northampton County
Janell Connolly, Malissa Davis, Darlene Heller, Carl Manges, Steve Melnick, David O’Connell, Spirit Rutzler, and Tina Smith

Staff Present: Matt Assad, Peter Barnard, Becky Bradley, Mike Donchez, Charlie Doyle, Carol Halper, Brian Hite, Craig Kackenmeister, Teresa Mackey, Simon Okumu, Tracy Oscavich, Geoff Reese, Sue Rockwell, Jill Seitz, Elena Tucci, and Bethany Vazquez

Public Present: Jeff Ward, Tinku Khanwalkar, and Kevin Kalman
MINUTES

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the September 26, 2019 LVPC meeting are attached. Mr. Lammi made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. With Ms. Dreisbach abstaining from the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Repasch shared that the nominating committee formed at the October 17, 2019 executive committee for 2020 LVPC officers. The Committee has met and will discuss its recommendations at next month’s meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FutureLV
   Mr. Repasch stated that in accordance with the MPC a public hearing is required when considering the adoption of the county comprehensive plans. See the minutes for the Public Hearing on October 31st for further detail. Mr. McGee made the motion to adopt the FutureLV plan and recommend the plan for County adoption. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Committee

   Mr. Barnard reviewed the City of Allentown’s Comprehensive Plan Update with the Commission. Overall the Allentown Vision 2030 Plan lays out a strong visions for the community’s future rooted in the city’s history, identity, community, and urban form. The LVPC particularly appreciates the Executive Summary and Area Planning sections of the plan, which graphically lays out a clear, neighborhood-based approach to community planning and economic development. The City-Wide Urban Systems section has many strong principles, next steps, and catalytic actions that will help the city to achieve the future it desires for itself. All three sections help support the goals and policies of the County Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Khanwalker expressed concerns with the plan’s climate sections. Ms. Khanwalker suggested a region-wide Climate Action Plan to help municipalities develop these ideals to help merge goals in plans to tie in and reflect climate concerns. Ms. Bradley shared some future actions from the FutureLV Plan that will help work towards those goals. With no further comments from the Commission or public, Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to accept the staff comments. Mr. Amato seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Williams Township – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Rewrite – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Revision**

Mr. Barnard presented the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Rewrite for Williams Township. The Williams Township Draft Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update is much longer than other comprehensive zoning ordinance updates that have been recently reviewed by the LVPC. However, several terms, definitions, and regulations are not as clear as they could be. The LVPC recommends strengthening and clarifying definitions for terms such as “large” or “substantial”, as well as several sections, including agriculture, conservation, and industrial land uses like warehousing, truck terminals and logistics centers. These changes will help the municipality better implement the Williams Township Comprehensive Plan, 2018. The LVPC recommends doing a thorough review of formatting within and between sections, as well as spelling, punctuation and grammar, before the draft is finalized. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to approve the staff comments. Mr. McGorry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Coopersburg Borough – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Rewrite – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Revision**

Mr. Barnard presented the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Rewrite for Coopersburg Borough. The Coopersburg Borough Draft Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update is well structured and easy to cross reference. However, several terms, definitions, and regulations are not as thorough as they could be. The VPC recommends strengthening and clarifying several sections, particularly the environmental section and provisions regarding industrial land uses like warehousing, truck terminals and logistics centers. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to approve the staff comments. Ms. Rader seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Project Review, Summary Sheet**

Ms. Dreisbach reviewed the Comprehensive Plan project summary sheet. The proposal is not consistent with the county comprehensive plan, however the LVPC notes several improvements to the site and development plan that are notable and should be commended for being incorporated into the proposal. Ms. Dreisbach made a motion to approve the staff comments. Ms. Rader seconded the motion. With Mr. Zebrowski rejecting the motion, the motion passed.

**Environment Committee**

1. **Project Review, Summary Sheet**

Ms. Rockwell reviewed the Environment Committee summary sheet. The application does not conflict with the county comprehensive plan. Per DRBC documentation, no adverse impacts anticipated with continued operation of the treatment plant. Mr. Lammi made a motion to approve the staff comments. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Transportation Committee**

1. **Metropolitan Area Planning Freight Forum Report**
Ms. Bradley gave a brief update on the Metropolitan Area Planning Freight Forum.

NEW BUSINESS

None this month.

COMMUNICATION

1. 2019 Lehigh Valley Gala and Awards Recap
   Ms. Oscavich reviewed the Gala award nominees and winners with the Commission and thanked everyone for their support and participation in this year’s Gala.

2. Toys for Tots
   Ms. Vazquez announced that the “Toys for Tots” drive is underway. New toys will be collected until December 2nd.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

   Ms. Bradley presented information on the September Monthly BuildLV: Subdivision and Land Development Report. The report will be distributed publicly around the 15th of each month and is available at lvpc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING WERE MADE:

1. Planning + Pizza, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
   The next P+P sessions will be held on November 20th, FutureLV: The Regional Plan. Ms. Bradley also announced that the first ever Planning + Pretzels will take place at the LVPC office on October 31st beginning at 2 pm to discuss the creation of a water working group.

2. Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office
   The upcoming LTAP class will be Stormwater Facility Operations and Maintenance, November 8th, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, and LTAP Active Transportation Pilot, December 6th, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

3. Lehigh Valley Government Academy
   The Zoning Course will begin November 4th. Registration is closed for this course.

4. Multimodal Working Group
   The Multimodal Working Group will occur on December 4th at 9:00 am at the LVPC Office.
5. **Lehigh Valley Consortium of Professional Organizations Event**  
The Lehigh Valley Consortium of Professional Organizations will be holding an event on November 12th, at the Lehigh County Bar Association, to discuss *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

6. **FutureLV Event with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, in partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, will be holding a FutureLV event on November 14th at ArtsQuest from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

7. **Freight Advisory Committee**  
The Freight Advisory Committee will meet at the LVPC office on December 4th beginning at 9:00 am.

**Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:  
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director  
Bethany Vazquez, Program Associate