



COUNTY OF ERIE
Erie County Planning Commission
 Erie County Courthouse
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Mark J. Corey
Chairman

Gerry Dahl
Vice-Chairman

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 MEETING MINUTES**

February 5, 2009

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at **7:00 PM** on **Thursday, February 5, 2009** in the **Admiral Room** at the **Raymond M. Blasco Memorial Library**, 160 East Front Street, Erie PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Mark Corey	County of Erie (Chair, Exec. Board)
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Vice-Chair, Exec. Board)
Carol Loll	County Council (Exec. Board)
Jan Cornwell	County of Erie (Exec. Board)
Eric Legenzoff	Elk Creek Township (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Richard Allgeier	Greene Township (Exec. Board)
Joseph Legnasky	Lake City Borough (Exec. Board)
Joe Giles	County Council
Curtis Jones	Erie City Council
Jim Cardman	Fairview Township
Robert Stubenbort	Girard Borough
Paul Pangratz	Girard Township
Tom Renshaw	Lawrence Park Township
Don Mulson	Mill Village Borough
Mark Sander	Wayne Township
Planning Department Staff:	
Jake Welsh	

Executive Board members present – 8 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Mark Corey called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was given.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public comments were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2008 MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Casey and seconded by Joe Legnasky to approve the December 11th, 2008 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Board Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers

Eric Legenzoff, Nominating Committee Chairman, provided a handout of the Nominating Committee Report; which states the recommendations/nominations for the (nine member) 2009 Executive Board appointments (see attached). The committee recommended re-appointment of eight of the nine 2008 Executive Board members:

Mark Corey, Gerry Dahl , Carol Loll, Jan Cornwell, Eric Legenzoff, Charles Casey, Richard Allgeier, and Joseph Legnasky.

The committee recommended Laura Breon as a new appointment to replace Rustin Peters, who resigned due to other commitments.

The committee also recommended the re-appointment of Mark Corey as Chairman and Gerry Dahl as Vice-Chairman.

Eric stated that all nominated appointees, with the exception of Laura Breon, have confirmed acceptance of the nominations. Eric indicated that Laura was unable to be contacted due to being out of town, and that an alternate nomination has been identified if she declines the nomination.

A motion was made by Eric Legenzoff and seconded by Jan Cornwell to accept the nominations presented by the nominating committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Appointment of ECPC members to new terms

Jake Welsh recapped the December meeting discussion regarding the disproportionate number of members (22) whose terms expired at the end of 2008, and the desired scenario of having approximately one quarter of the member terms expiring each year to allow for a more gradual annual transition of new members/appointments. Jake then described the results of the re-appointment process as agreed on at the December meeting.

Jake stated that the reappointments of the expiring 22 members were split into two terms to produce the desired scenario; 11 members were designated to a 2008-2011 term, and the other 11 members were designated to a 2009-2012 term. This was accomplished by sorting them alphabetically and then alternating the terms. In addition, 4 of the 16 members currently with a 2007-2010 term were selected to be moved to the 2006-2009 term to balance the number of members with those terms out as well, using the same process.

The following breakdown resulted:

2006-2009 – 12 members
2007-2010 – 12 members
2008-2011 – 11 members
2009-2012 – 11 members

Jake noted that confirmations of the new term appointments have been received from almost all the expiring members municipalities, and also welcomed the new members in attendance.

A motion was made by Joseph Legnasky and seconded by Jan Cornwell to accept the new term appointments. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Northwest PA Greenways Plan: Erie County

Jake Welsh provided an update on the status of the Erie County Greenways Plan. He stated that the final draft received from the consultant (after the ECPC agenda was sent) still contains several areas that need corrections, and that it is not ready for consideration by the County as a final draft. Discussion followed regarding the plan contents, status of the other county plans that are also ongoing, and the tentative timeline for a final draft to be completed, which is undetermined at this time.

Municipal Road Salt

Several members discussed the ongoing road salt concerns, with municipal representatives commenting on available stockpiles, weather impacts and prices. All were looking forward to the upcoming warm-up.

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) Update

Councilman Giles provided an update on the activities of the ECGRA. He described the efforts of the Authority to develop policies and implement the application review procedures, noting that the members were being very thorough and diligent in

evaluating information relating to the project requests that have been received for the restricted funds from the host and contiguous municipalities. He also commented on the likely next steps for awarding uncommitted funds, which would be available to all Erie County municipalities. Discussion followed regarding possible impacts on expected casino revenue from allowing poker machines in clubs, and the distribution/awarding of the uncommitted funds for municipal projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

ECDP Report

Jake Welsh reviewed information provided in a handout (attached) describing the planning department responsibilities, functions and activities. He focused on the 2009 initiatives listed on page two, specifically the comprehensive plan updates that are underway, and the other countywide plans being developed. He also mentioned that the Erie County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance is being reviewed for possible modifications and updating.

Discussion followed regarding the planning commission's role in providing input into these efforts, and the mission of the ECPC in general. Jake stated that he would provide information to the members specific to the role of the planning commission as defined by the PA Municipalities Planning Code and the ECPC by-laws.

Jake also mentioned the accomplishments report attached to the handout that outlines the overall activity in each program area over the past three years. He highlighted a couple areas including recycling and comprehensive planning.

Municipal Report / Hot Topic

Mark Corey mentioned that this is typically where municipal officials will report on various issues such as the road salt and other municipal concerns and topics. The hot topic issue is also identified and discussed and sometimes involves bringing in guest speakers to address the topic. Mark invited the members to bring ideas and suggestions forward for future meetings.

Jake Welsh mentioned that an e-mail was sent out by ECDP recently to all municipalities passing along a request from the Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership to identify and prepare a list of shovel-ready projects that would be candidates for Economic Stimulus funds. Discussion followed regarding the value of preparing community needs assessments on an annual basis for a variety of purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.