



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**

October 8, 2009

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, October 8, 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:
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Vice-Chair, Exec. Board)
Jan Cornwell	County of Erie (Exec. Board)
Eric Legenzoff	Elk Creek Township (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Joseph Legnasky	Lake City Borough (Exec. Board)
Laura Breon	Waterford Borough (Exec. Board)
Joe Giles	County Council
Darrell Kimmy	Amity Township
Paul Pangratz	Girard Township
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Township
Tom Coffin	Waterford Township
Donna Horn	Wattsburg Borough
Planning Department Staff:	
Jake Welsh	
John McGranor	
Guests:	
Kim Ayers	Wattsburg
Robert Johnson	North East

Executive Board members present – 6 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Gerry Dahl called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was given. ECPC members introduced themselves for the benefit of new attendees.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public comments were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE September 10, 2009 MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Casey and seconded by Jan Cornwell to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of Erie County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)

John McGranor provided a status report on the update process for the Erie County SALDO. John noted that the preliminary draft developed by the ECDP staff had been sent to the subcommittee members and several other agencies for their technical review and comment, including the County Health Dept, County Assessment office, Erie County Conservation District, several area zoning officers, surveyors and developers, and that comments have been received and follow-ups made.

Another work session of the subcommittee members was held prior to the ECPC meeting to discuss the review comments received and address any outstanding issues from the subcommittee members. Additional revisions will now be made to the draft based on the comments and consensus reached by the subcommittee.

The preliminary draft will then be posted on the Planning Dept. website so it is accessible for review by the ECPC, municipal officials and others. Once additional review and comment has been received and any further revisions reviewed and discussed, a final draft will be prepared for approval by the ECPC and a legal review by the County Solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2010 Executive Board

Gary Dahl asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Jan Cornwell, Eric Legenzoff and Joe Legnasky agreed and were appointed as such. Jan agreed to serve as

chair of the committee. The committee recommendations / nominations of executive board members and officers will be presented at the February 2010 ECPC meeting.

ECDP Monthly Activity Report

Jake Welsh reviewed information provided in the monthly activity report handout mailed to the ECPC members with the meeting notice. Jake gave a brief update on the status of the Stormwater Management Plan, noting that an advisory committee meeting was scheduled for October 21, and encouraging members to attend. Jake gave an overview of the State Transportation Commission public hearing held the previous day, and described the information provided to them regarding the Erie County Twelve Year Transportation Program project priorities. Jake also mentioned that FEMA had recently sent updated floodplain maps out for municipal review and comments, and encouraged members to participate in the review process.

OTHER BUSINESS

Municipal Report

Updates were provided by municipal representatives regarding ongoing Transportation Enhancement (TE) / Safe Routes To School (SR2S) projects around the county. These projects were previously approved/funded by PENNDOT through the Erie MPO. Construction has started on the Waterford SR2S project, which will provide sidewalks from downtown Waterford to Fort LeBoeuf High School. Construction has been completed on the Lake City SR2S project, which provided sidewalks to/at Elk Valley Elementary School.

Mayor Donna Horn provided the members with an overview of current municipal issues in Wattsburg Borough. Donna noted that Borough Council is working on addressing several areas, including the municipal water system and some road flooding problems.

Councilman Joe Giles asked municipal representatives if the Right-To-Know law is affecting them from the standpoint of responding to additional requests for information and how they are handling them. Brief discussion followed.

Hot Topic

The subject of gaming revenues was discussed. Eric Legenzoff asked if there had been any further discussion on the possible use of the Liquid Fuels formula as a method for distributing gaming revenues to municipalities.

There was a reiteration of how the funds are divided per the PA Gaming Act: 50% of the annual revenue distributed to the host county is classified as 'unrestricted' funds, administered by County Council. The other 50% is classified as 'restricted', administered by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), and are to be

allocated to the host and contiguous municipalities per the dictates of the court ruling. Any 'restricted' funds left unallocated on an annual basis are classified as 'Uncommitted'. These funds are also administered by ECGRA.

Councilman Giles provided an overview of the recent activities of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). He stated that the authority has been focused on the distribution process for the 'restricted' funds, and has just recently been developing and refining a process for distributing the 'uncommitted' funds.

Councilman Giles noted that ECGRA did discuss various suggestions regarding allocating the 'uncommitted' funds at their last meeting. Four major themes were discussed at that meeting that the authority appears to be supporting funding for: creating a revolving loan fund, supporting regional 'transformational' projects, supporting regional assets, and creating a municipal grant program. The authority established a subcommittee at the meeting to develop recommendations for formalized policies for allocating the 'uncommitted' funds.

Jake Welsh added that he was asked to serve on the subcommittee to provide technical assistance and support in developing the recommendations, and also mentioned that he gave a presentation to the authority at that meeting describing the Liquid Fuels formula, and supporting its use as a funding distribution method to the municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.