



COUNTY OF ERIE

Erie County Planning Commission

Erie County Courthouse
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Patricia Pfadt
Chair

Jan Cornwell
Vice-Chairman

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

November 8, 2012

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the **Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library**, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Chair, Exec. Board)
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Paul Pangratz	Girard Twp (Exec. Board)
Richard Allgeier	Greene Twp (Exec. Board)
Joe Legnasky	Lake City Boro (Exec. Board)
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp
William Lawry	Greenfield Twp
Marguerite lobst	Lawrence Park Twp
Kurt Lichtenfeld	North East Twp
Karen Molitor	Waterford Boro
Flory Kondzielski	Waterford Twp
Peter Nye	Wesleyville Boro
Planning Department Staff:	
John McGranor	
Guests:	

Executive Board members present – 6 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance was given.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2012 MINUTES

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

NEW BUSINESS

ECDP Monthly Activity Report

John McGranor briefly reviewed information contained in the report that is distributed to the members with the agenda, including:

Destination Erie: A Regional Vision - Phase I of the planning process is coming to a conclusion. This phase consists of data collection and an analysis of existing trends and conditions. The consulting team will present its report at a Regional Consortium Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2012 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, at the Blasco Memorial Library, H.O. Hirt Auditorium. All are invited to attend.

Stormwater Management Intermunicipal Collaboration Project - The Erie Area Council of Governments will be holding a meeting on November 29, 2012, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, at the Perry Highway Hose Company, 8281 Oliver Road. The purpose of the meeting is to present the results of a stormwater management survey that was distributed to all municipalities in August. This will also be an opportunity for municipalities to begin discussing opportunities to collaborate on stormwater management in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

CDBG - Today was the CDBG application deadline for 2013 projects. Joe Berdis will send copies of the applications to all ECPC members for their review. Joe will be attending the December ECPC meeting, and will ask ECPC members to rank/prioritize projects at that time.

ECGRA Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants

Gerry Dahl mentioned that ECGRA is making \$400,000 available for multi-municipal collaboration grants. John McGranor attended a workshop held by ECGRA, and provided some details. The purpose of the grants is to encourage multi-municipal collaboration. A minimum of 2 municipalities is required. In addition, a 1:1 cash match is required, and projects must be completed within 12 months. The application deadline is December 6, 2012. ECGRA is currently planning to offer the grants again in 2013, and may make them an annual offering if they prove successful. A question was raised concerning eligibility of water/sewer infrastructure projects. John noted that "water, sewer, storm water & utility infrastructure" is listed by ECGRA as an ineligible use of the funding. Additional details about the grant are available at www.ecgra.org.

2012 ECPC Member Terms

ECPC member term information was distributed with the agenda for this meeting. Jake Welsh will send notification letters to all whose terms are due to expire at the end of 2012.

2013 Meeting Dates

ECPC reviewed the 2013 meeting dates, which were distributed with the agenda for this meeting.

Charles Casey made a motion to cancel the January meeting. Joe Legnasky seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Joe Legnasky made a motion to hold the February meeting on February 7th, instead of on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Peter Nye seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

John McGranor indicated that a meeting location was needed for the May meeting. Jim Cardman offered to host the meeting in Fairview. Numerous other municipalities also offered to host the meeting. Following a brief discussion, Joe Legnasky made a motion of accept Fairview's offer to host the May meeting. Charles Casey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion continued briefly. Members expressed interest in holding future meetings in various locations throughout the County, at least during the "good weather" months.

OLD BUSINESS

Destination Erie – A Regional Vision: Workshop Results

John McGranor provided a recap of the results of the ECPC workshop from the October meeting. The workshop consisted of three parts. ECPC members were asked to identify and prioritize the Erie Region's strengths, challenges, and ideas for the future. The results were distributed with the agenda for this meeting.

Similar, public workshops were held at Penn State Behrend on October 1st and Edinboro University on October 2nd. There were a total of 146 participants at these workshops, with approximately 100 participants at the Penn State Behrend workshop, and the remainder participating in Edinboro. John announced the results of these public workshops, and identified some of the common, top responses resulting from the various workshops. They are as follows, in no particular order:

Top Regional Strengths Identified: natural resources; water resources, Lake Erie; educational assets; cost of living; diversity

Top Regional Challenges Identified: poverty; economic issues, jobs; work-force training, lack of community college

Top Ideas for the Future: effective & responsible use of resources, especially natural resources and lake; improved collaboration, working together; work-force development and/or community college

OTHER BUSINESS

Municipal Reports

Greenfield Township has received a permit application for a “Utica shale” gas well. The timeframe for actual drilling is unknown.

Greenfield Township is also experiencing continued interest from wind energy companies.

Gerry Dahl noted that the Erie Redevelopment Authority is making low interest loans available for infrastructure projects. Apparently, if no community college is established, gaming funds previously dedicated for a college may be re-directed to establish a low interest loan fund. The Authority is currently initiating a pilot program for the fund.

Karen Molitor indicated that Waterford Borough would be interested in partnering with another municipality or municipalities for emergency management planning. Gerry Dahl noted that recent state mandates have resulted in the need for a paid emergency management coordinator. It was suggested that Dale Robinson, from the Erie County Department of Public Safety, and Ed Lesser, from the Erie Area COG, may be able to provide some additional assistance.

Wesleyville will be starting a sanitary sewer project next week. The project was partially funded with 2011 CDBG funds.

Patricia Pfadt noted that Erie County Recycling Convenience Center’s Saturday collections for household hazardous waste and electronic waste ended in October. She asked how people will now be able to recycle TVs. John McGranor noted that it was necessary to end collections for 2012 due to limited program funding. Waiting for collections to begin again in 2013 is an option. It is also possible that some retailers, such as Best Buy, are continuing to accept old TVs (depending on the size) for recycling. Recycling questions may be directed to Erie County’s recycling coordinator, Don Blakesley.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.