



COUNTY OF ERIE

Erie County Planning Commission

Erie County Courthouse
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Patricia Pfadt
Chair

Jan Cornwell
Vice-Chair

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 8, 2012

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, March 8, 2012** at the **Fort LeBoeuf High School (cafeteria)**, 931 North High Street, Waterford, PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Chair, Exec. Board)
Jan Cornwell	Erie County (Vice-Chair, Exec. Board)
Carol Loll	County Council (Exec. Board)
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Paul Pangratz	Girard Twp (Exec. Board)
Rick Allgeier	Greene Twp (Exec. Board)
Joe Legnasky	Lake City Boro (Exec. Board)
Greg Hemmis	Albion Boro
Darrell Kimmy	Amity Twp
Rick Huston	Conneaut Twp
Ed Kissell	County of Erie
William Taylor	Elk Creek Twp
William Lawry	Greenfield Twp
Kenneth Neuburger	McKean Twp
Flory Kondzielski	Waterford Twp
Mark Sander	Wayne Twp
Pete Nye	Wesleyville Boro
Planning Department Staff:	
Jake Welsh	
Guests:	
Cynthia Proctor	
Brian Cooper	McKean Twp

Executive Board members present – 8 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Patricia Pfadt called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was given.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2012 MINUTES

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

NEW BUSINESS

ECDP Monthly Activity Report

Jake Welsh asked if there were any specific questions regarding the Activity Report that was provided with the meeting notice. Discussion followed on several items of interest, including:

Destination Erie - Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – The grant became effective February 1, 2012. The contract was being finalized for execution between the County and WRT planning consultants, and their initial site visit and preliminary kick-off meetings were being scheduled for the week of March 19th.

Erie County 2040 Transportation Plan – An Erie MPO meeting, public officials briefing, and public meeting were all held on February 15 to review, discuss and receive comments on the Plan. The 30-day public comment period is coming to a close, ending March 9th. Formal MPO adoption will occur after the comment period has expired, pending any comments received.

Erie County Blight Remediation Plan – The Erie County Redevelopment Authority consultant has prepared a cursory blight analysis and remediation plan in coordination with the Erie Coalition of Housing Organizations (ECHO). The final report was nearing completion for review.

Erie County Affordable Housing (Act 137) Fund – Four applications for the 2012 program were received with funding requests totaling \$155,490. The voting committee met March 7 to review the funding recommendations made by the non-voting committee in February. Three applications totaling \$120,000 were awarded funding. Contracts were being prepared to send to the grantees for execution.

Erie County Recycling Convenience Center – The center has begun the 2012 season at the new location; 1624 Filmore Avenue, Millcreek Township, with the first collection event held on March 3rd. Over thirty people were registered, which is a little low but not unusual for the early season. There were no negative comments on the move to the new location.

Traffic Signal Emergency Pre-emption Task Force – ECDP has been working with several local municipalities, PENNDOT, and area emergency service providers to assess the condition of the existing RELCO system, and develop alternatives and seek funding to repair the failing system. A presentation was given to the ECGRA on March 8 describing the project and requesting funding consideration.

CDBG Funds Re-allocation

Charles Casey asked for clarification on the proposed re-allocation of CDBG funds to go towards the FY2012 applicants. It was explained that the final FY 2012 funding available was less than the anticipated amount that the ECPC had allocated back in December, leaving only \$15,456 available for the fourth-ranked project, the Waterford Boro Curb Cut Ramps project. After discussion with Waterford Boro, it was recommended that the \$15,456 amount be re-distributed equally to the top three projects instead. Fortunately, residual funds from a recently completed FY2009 CDBG project in Waterford were now available amounting \$37,468. It was recommended to re-allocate those funds back to Waterford Boro to go toward the Curb Cut Ramp project. A full explanation of the revised funding recommendations was provided via a memorandum from the County Executive's office dated March 7th.

OLD BUSINESS

Pleasant Ridge Manor – Carol Loll was asked to provide a follow up on the County's deliberations regarding Pleasant Ridge Manor. Carol re-iterated the ongoing issues and recent activities and noted that no decisions have been made. She updated the group on the possible extension of water and sewer lines to the PRM West facility, which is being looked into for feasibility. The cost estimates are \$1 million for the sewer line extension, but since there would be a local mandate for other property owners within 150 feet along the new line to tap in, some of that total cost could be recouped, leaving approximately \$400k in expense to the County. The extension of water to the facility would cost approximately \$400k, which would be at the County's expense, since there is no local mandate for others to tap in. All options are still being explored.

OTHER BUSINESS

Municipal Reports

Members discussed the past winter with regards to road maintenance. There was agreement that even though there was less snowfall overall, the use of road salt wasn't really reduced and plowing operations didn't vary much either. There was consensus that because of the milder winter weather, there were actually more maintenance problems due to more frequent freeze-thaw conditions, requiring more patching and grading.

Gas Well Development

Members discussed the emerging (shale) gas well industry, citing examples of the land speculation and leasing negotiations that have been occurring. Jake Welsh mentioned that with the passage of Act 13 in PA on February 13, counties have 60 days to enact an

ordinance that will allow for the collection of impact fees for well development in Erie County. If the county doesn't pass the ordinance, there is a procedure in place for municipalities to adopt individual resolutions. If at least 50% of the municipalities pass resolutions, that would also authorize the impact fee collection in the absence of a County ordinance. ECDP has reviewed the Act and is recommending the County adopt the model ordinance. Jake indicated that County Council was anticipating reviewing the model ordinance at their next meeting, with possible passage prior to the 60-day deadline.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.