

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

June 3, 2021

Members Present:

Mr. Ken J. Kulak, II, AIA, Vice Chair
Mr. Lee Nickovich

Staff:

Ms. Lisa L. Cessna, Planning Director

The June 3, 2021 meeting of the Washington County Planning Commission Board Members was held at Washington County Planning Commission Conference Room, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 707, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301.

Ms. Cessna opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Ms. Cessna called for minute approval. A motion was made by Mr. Nickovich to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Kulak, second the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Parks Projects** - Paving, Pickle Ball, and Grants Submitted. Updates were provided on the parks projects and a new grant submission.

2. **Fair Projects** - Hall 3 Bids, Barn, Gun Club. Hall 3 bids in December were high so, specs were revised. Rebid in May resulted in higher costs (likely materials). Ken Kulak discussed bid costs due to materials. Likely will rebid in the Fall.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Donora Trail** - Ms. Cessna shared proposed trail alignment per study conducted by municipalities along the Norfolk Southern abandoned line (Marianna to Bentleyville). Right of Way for sale but not donated. Funding will be an issue.
2. **West Alexander Tunnel** - Discussed recent issue at West Alexander Tunnel. Getting estimates for repair or fill and seal.
3. **Special Projects/Agenda Items** - The review of February through May, 2021, special projects and agenda items were reviewed. No comments were made.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. **Economic Strategy/Tourism Impacts** - There was extensive discussion on Tourism helping Economic Development in the County. Capitalize on the River. Developers could focus on creating mini vacation towns or multi-family housing on the riverfront (Coal Center, West Brownsville) with walkable amenities, golf cart friendly communities. Tourism could work to develop

and market a joint river fest in the Mon Valley. Boaters look for events.

Erie re-branding now and could serve as a good example.

2. **Stakeholder Outreach** - Recommended noting demographic (age, location) of person answering questions as priorities vastly different. If you want to attract younger generations, they want different things. Need more youth in political leadership roles. Major focus on infrastructure (water, sewage, broadband).

SUBDIVISIONS

Ms. Cessna presented the subdivisions for February through May, 2021 for review. No comments were made.

OTHER

The Board Members will provide input into Stakeholder questions/survey.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cessna adjourned the meeting at 7:30, thanking everyone for their participation.