

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

February 9, 2022

Members Present: Mr. Ken J. Kulak, II, AIA, Chair
Mr. William Kiehl

Staff: Ms. Lisa L. Cessna, Planning Director

The February 9th, 2022 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 4:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Cessna introduced the new board member Mr. Kiehl to the current members; Mr. Kulak and the rotating chair system will continue.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Ken J. Kulak will be Chairman and Mr. Lee Nickovich will be the Vice Chairman for 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed for information only.

OLD BUSINESS

Board members reviewed the notes from the two meetings of the Economic Development Agencies of Washington County and offered the following recommendations to add to the overall discussion:

1. The proximity of the Cracker Plant to Washington County is important for future economic development plans. Many spin off industries will result and Washington County needs to position themselves to attract these industries.
2. Food production, water export and energy are three areas of immediate and future need that Washington County could invest in now for sustainability and market competitiveness.
3. Washington County should complete a feasibility study and cost analysis for a sports complex along the river to attract travel sport events such as volleyball, soccer and baseball as well as add a unique component for water sports such as kayaking and skull racing.
4. When investing in downtowns, first the "new purpose" must be established. For the City of Washington pilot project, the establishment of a redevelopment fund through and annual payment in lieu of taxes

from the County and Washington and Jefferson College will go a long way toward advancing projects. Washington and Jefferson College needs to be heavily involved to ensure that the students are accommodated for overall success of the "new downtown."

5. Mon Valley needs a live/work/entertain development. Coal Center revitalization project could serve as a pilot for investment.
6. Washington County lacks housing to attract young people, who do not want a single family home and lacks housing for the retired, who wish to move to a smaller less maintenance location such as a carriage home.
7. Washington County should work closely with municipalities to establish a COG for shared services and equipment to assist municipalities.
8. County Chamber should establish a "costars" type system to identify what is available in the county for goods and services, so municipalities will know that many things can be purchased through local businesses.

A special meeting of the Planning Board serving as the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee needs to be scheduled in February to try to get all members in attendance to discuss these and other recommendations prior to the meeting with the Economic Agencies and Commissioners in March.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Annual Report** - Ms. Cessna will distribute the annual report next week via email and/or the United States Postal Service to members not in attendance.
2. **Special Projects/Agenda Items** - The review of December 2021 and January 2022, special projects and agenda items were reviewed. No comments were made.

SUBDIVISIONS

Ms. Cessna presented the subdivisions for December 2021 and January 2022 for review. No comments were made.

OTHER

The Board meeting schedule was received.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cessna adjourned the meeting at 6:20, thanking everyone for their participation.