



COUNTY OF ERIE

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brenton Davis
County Executive

Jessica Horan
Director

Erie County Planning Commission
Minutes for the February 9, 2023 Meeting
Erie County Planning Department

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Quorum = 5

District/Designation	Municipality	Name	Present
District 1	Millcreek Twp	Matt Waldinger	PRESENT
District 2	City of Erie	Lisa Austin	PRESENT
District 3	City of Erie	Don Crenshaw	PRESENT
District 4	City of Erie	Charles Casey	PRESENT
District 5	Summit Twp	Mark Sleppy	PRESENT
District 6	UC Borough	Cindy Wells	PRESENT
District 7	Fairview Twp	Jim Cardman	PRESENT
At-Large			
At-Large	Girard Borough	Jeanne Miller	PRESENT
Alternate 1			
Alternate 2 (vacant)			
Alternate 3 (vacant)			

ALSO in attendance: Michael Orr; Councilman Brian Shank; GIS Analyst Jacki Slagle; Program Administrator John McGranor; Adam Trott; Jessica Horan; Nancy Blimmel

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from last meeting: The minutes from the December 8, 2022 were approved on a motion made by Charles Casey and seconded by Don Crenshaw with all approving.

4. Hearing of the Public: None

5. Old Business: Jessica and Matt have both registered for the APA National Planning Conference which is being held in Philadelphia from April 1 – 4. There are numerous categories and workshops available during the conference.

6. New Business: John McGranor, Erie County Planner, made a presentation on solar energy and some of the benefits and challenges that it will create in the future. The slide presentation is available to view and will be emailed to the Commission members. It is encouraged that the county and municipalities get in front of solar power in future planning and zoning ordinances. John is currently working on a sample solar zoning amendment for the municipalities. John is also working on an amendment to Erie County’s Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) that will apply to municipalities that do not have their own SALDO. He will have a draft ready prior to the April Planning Commission Meeting for review. He will email or mail it prior to the meeting. Please let him know if you have any questions or comments. If it is ready by the April meeting, the Commission can vote on it or it can be presented at the following meeting for vote.

7. Communications

- A. **Department of Planning and Community Development Report:** Jessica introduced the new office manager of Planning, Nancy Blimmel and the new GIS Analyst, Jacki Slagle, and welcomed Councilman Brian Shank to the meeting.
- Michael Orr, who has regularly attended the Planning Commission meetings, will officially be appointed to the Commission at the February 21 council meeting.
 - The FCC Broadband challenge has been completed.
 - The Planning Department has hired a Recycling Coordinator. She will start February 21, 2023. The new Parks & Recreation Coordinator position has been awarded grant funding from PA DCNR. We have posted an additional position to assist the CBDG Coordinator. Joe Berdis is retiring this month and his job will be posted as well. We will also be hiring for the Municipal Technical Assistance position formerly known as MS4. This position will complete the MS 4 deliverables and provide GIS assistance for municipal and Planning department needs.
- B. **Commissioner Reports** – *It would be helpful to hear brief comments as to what is happening planning-wise in your area (see table above)*
- **District 1:** Matt Waldinger reported that the land purchase has gone through and Millcreek is proceeding with the PI/8th St. Gateway Project. They are hoping to work with the Land Bank to demolish the buildings and then combine the properties for future development.
 - **District 2:** Lisa Austin informed the Commission that Joe Giles passed away. He had many accomplishments over the years. Lisa also discussed the future changes on the Bayfront Parkway with regards to PennDOT, specifically the negative impacts. This issue was the subject of a lawsuit filed by Earth Justice. Lisa invited architect Adam Trott to speak on the decision of the judge.
 - **District 3:** Don Crenshaw reported that there are many revitalizations projects in the works.
 - **District 4:** Charles Casey indicated his displeasure with the new 12th Street traffic lights. There is apparently an issue with water getting into the light. PennDOT has said that this is a product defect with the lights.
 - **District 5:** Mark Sleppy reported that the roundabout was done and they are working on a couple of roadway issues. Summit did some work on the broadband issue.
 - **District 6:** Cindy Wells reported that they are still working on grant projects and the Landbank had a bid out to tear down a building which was started today.
 - **District 7:** Jim Cardman reported that Fairview continues with the downtown project and are currently looking for additional funding sources. They are updating their subdivision ordinances. As far as the Landbank – the board voted unanimously to fund the Millcreek project. They are demolishing a large building in Union City. There are a bunch of new demos coming up in next few weeks. The Landbank is now located in the Summit Township Building.
 - **District 8:** Jeanne Miller reported that Girard is working on a number of grants for improvements. They are working on the chicken ordinance and Air BnB, ordinance RV ordinance.
 - Michael Orr from **Elk Creek Township** reported that they are working on a solar/wind energy ordinance.

Lisa Austin requested that the Planning Commission meetings be available virtually. She felt that the County IT should make it possible for the public and commission members to participate virtually. Jessica mentioned that Summit and Millcreek do have the capabilities to have virtual meetings. Lisa suggested limiting meeting locations to closer to bus lines or at places that have the technology. Matt stated that the idea was to have meetings throughout the county since this is a county commission. This may be something that we work on for the future.

- 8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 on a motion by Charles Casey and seconded by Cindy Wells.