



COUNTY OF ERIE

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brenton Davis
County Executive

Jessica A. Horan
Director

Erie County Planning Commission

Minutes

October 10, 2024 6:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
Union City, PA 16438

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Quorum = 4

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	William McLaughlin	Absent
District 4		Vacant	
District 5		Vacant	
District 6	UC Borough	Cindy Wells	Present
District 7	McKean	Ron Bole	Present
At-Large	Elk Creek Twp	Michael Orr	Present
At-Large	Girard Borough	Jeanne Miller	Present
Alternate 1 (vacant)			
Alternate 2 (vacant)			
Alternate 3 (vacant)			

ALSO in attendance: Jessica Horan, Erie County Planning Director; Tony Cunningham, CDBG Program Administrator; Nancy Blimmel, Erie County Planning Department

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from the August 8, 2024 meeting; A motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2024 meeting was made by R. Bole with the second from J. Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Hearing of the Public: None

5. New Business:

Erie County CDBG Project Application Review and Ranking: Tony Cunningham, CDBG program administrator reviewed the applications that were submitted for Erie County CDBG funds. This year there is a total of \$308,082 dollars available for Erie County CDBG. \$52,373.94 are reserved for administration of this program leaving \$255,709 to be awarded to projects. Direct entitlements communities and On-Behalf-Of (OBO's) municipalities are not invited to apply for these funds.

The applications received are:

- A. Girard Borough, \$64,000 for construction of ADA Compliant curb ramps
- B. Albion Borough, \$255,000 (scalable) to extend the existing sidewalk, including ADA compliant sidewalks with curb ramps
- C. Wesleyville, \$100,000 for construction and engineering of a .3 mile pedestrian pathway along Water Street as part of a pedestrian access project with Lawrence Park Township.
- D. Lake City, \$89,250 to upgrade existing and installing 10 new handicap curb cuts to meet ADA requirements

- E. Union City, \$100,000 towards a project to address an area of collapsing storm sewers with an open hole in a public area.
- F. Habitat for Humanity, \$48,000 to build two houses for low-mod income families in North East Township
- G. Paramount, \$90,000 to help establish a new entrepreneurial EDGE program in Erie County
- H. Lawrence Park, \$50,000 toward planning for Phase 2 of the Water Street pedestrian access project

The Commission discussed the projects in depth and the following motions were made:

A motion to fully fund the Union City project was made by Ron Bole and seconded by Jeanne Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to fully fund the Lawrence Park project was made by Matt Waldinger with a second from Lisa Austin. The motion failed to pass at 2 to 4 votes.

A motion to fully fund Wesleyville and give the remaining funds to Albion was made by Ron Bole and seconded by Jeanne Miller. The motion passed at a vote of 5 to 1.

On other CDBG news, Conneaut and Washington Townships are entitlement communities who have not previously participated. Starting with 2024 funding, Conneaut Township is now a participating entitlement community and is eligible for approximately \$95,000 annually. Washington Township will be eligible to participate starting in 2025. CDBG OBO's and entitlement community eligibility is still based on census data from the 1980's. The funds must be used to benefit low to moderate income people.

6. Old Business:

- A.** Jessica Horan informed the Commission that the Solar Amendment to the SALDO passed County Council on August 20, 2024.
- B.** Jessica Horan discussed the PA APA Conference, which will be held in Erie on October 13-15, 2024. Jeanne Miller and Lisa Austin have been signed up. Matt Waldinger is also attending. The majority of the staff in the Planning Department are attending and/or presenting sessions at the conference. Matt Waldinger is also presenting a session.

7. Communications

A. Department of Planning and Community Development Report

Jessica reported:

- HHW drop off schedule is being created for next year. The next one for 2024 is on October 19 at the Summit Township Building. Please let Jessica know if your community would like to be a drop off site.
- ICC was held on September 21st 4000 lbs of trash was removed.
- Robert Banks, Coastal Resource and Agricultural Preservation Program Administrator is attending a Conservational Training program on a scholarship in November.
- The ribbon cutting in Union City at Deveraux Park that includes a segment of the Erie to Corry Trail was very well attended. The publicity attracted the Richard King Mellon Foundation interest and may be a potential source of funding. The ErieTrails.org website is being updated. Emerson secured 2 grants to help fund this website update.

- The Planning Department will be undertaking the development of a County Wide Housing Plan. The last time one was completed was in 2008. We will be applying for a PA DCED Municipal Assistance Grant to fund with this.
- There are 2 vacancies in the Planning Department, a Planning Program Coordinator and a Municipal Assistance Planner. Our goal for 2025 is to upgrade the municipal assistance position to a deputy director to attract more candidates. This is pending budget approval.

B. Commissioner Reports:

- District 1, Millcreek: M. Waldinger reported that he will be attending the PA APA Conference on October 13-15. Also, he has been participating in the Presque Isle Advisory Committee and DCNR is looking for a consultant to create a master plan for Presque Isle State Park including the bluffs. They are hoping to start within the next 6 months and expect the study to take 2 years to complete.
 - District 2: None
 - District 3: None
 - District 4: Vacant position
 - District 5: Vacant position
 - District 6: C. Wells invited everyone to view the lighting that has been done on Main Street in the historic district. The new trail in Devereux Park is complete.
 - District 7, McKean: R. Bole reported that their recycling event went well, had good participation. They plan to have the event again next year. Multiple municipalities participate in the event.
 - Elk Creek: M. Orr reported that the Sherrod Hill Road Bridge is fully funded now, working on right of way permissions from property owners.
 - Girard: None
- 8. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:40 pm by R. Bole with a second from M. Orr. The next Planning Commission meeting is December 12, 2024 at the Millcreek Township Building.

