

MINUTES OF THE POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2021
(Approved March 24, 2021)

The Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee held a meeting via teleconference on February 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Douglass Township- Pete Hiryak
East Coventry Township- Michael Moyer
Lower Pottsgrove Township – Tom Troutman
North Coventry Township – Jim Marks, Bill Soumis
New Hanover Township – Kurt Zebrowski
Pottstown Borough – Ryan Procsal
Upper Pottsgrove Township –Greg Churach, David Waldt
West Pottsgrove Township – Pete LaRosa
Montgomery County Planning Commission – Danielle Baer, Mike Narcowich
Recording Secretary – Bonnie L. Frisco

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Soumis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Soumis did a roll call and all municipalities were represented.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Review of the January Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the January 27, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. LaRosa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Zebrowski moved to approve the February 2021 Treasurer's Report. Mr. LaRosa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation: Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC) Strategic Plan

Barbara Heller of Berry Dunn presented the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee Strategic Plan. Items covered were:

- Questionnaire/Telephone Summary
 - Strengths were PARRC's good leadership, diversity in parks, success in getting grants, support from municipalities and group works together effectively
 - Improvement ideas were support for Recreation Coordinator, clarify Recreation Coordinator position, update priority list of projects and the importance of strategic direction
 - Challenges were funding, COVID-19, changing demographics and succession planning
 - Moving in the desired direction: better understanding of roles and municipalities priorities, increased funding by municipalities, and successful granting writing

- Making the Strategic Plan useful and implementable: maintain focus on strategic plan during monthly meeting, ensure demands on the Coordinator’s time is consistent with goals, feasible implementation plan, framework for procedures
- Demographics Highlights were Age Segment Population Changes, Ethnicity Changes
- Trends Overview: outdoor fitness and wellness program are the greatest needs, youth sports decline, changes in park and recreation services due to COVID-19, trail use and park usage has greatly increased, interest in STEM and STEAM programs, park design changes due to social distancing. Adventure recreation parks, nature related programs, dog parks, Esports, Pickeball, and mindfulness walks are growing activities.
- Strategic themes, objectives and initiatives: Identify community need, ensure access to services, respond to changes, develop regional partnerships, strengthen and leverage local partnerships, grow earned revenue, grow number of members, build the brand, develop organization capacity, develop operating standards, building institutional knowledge, and manage succession.

7. Discussion: DVRPC FY2022 Work Program Project

Mr. Moyer moved to pursue the DVRPC FY22 and FY23 project to conduct a study to identify bus stops for enhanced passenger shelters, landscaping, signage and related improvements, in the interest of increasing ridership for the newly extended Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART) system in the Pottstown Region. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Support Letter Request: DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program: Memorial Park Bridge and Streambank Restoration Project, Pottstown Borough

Mr. Moyer moved to approve the letter of support for the DCNR-C2P2 Grant Application for the Pottstown Borough – Memorial Park Bridge and Streambank Restoration Project. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion: Kummerer Parcel Phase 2A

Mr. Moyer moved that the Kummerer Parcel Phase 2A is generally consistent with the Regional Comprehensive Plan and include in the review letter to Upper Pottsgrove items of concern which are:

- Lack of parks and open space
- Lack of parking for parks and open space and access to parks and open space
- Road Network
 - Evans Road: concerns about the Evans Road access point and if Evans Road would be able to adequately handle the traffic from the new development
 - Fairview Lane Cul-de-Sac: recommendation to connect the Fairview Lane cul-de-sac to Road C to improve traffic circulation and increase the connectivity of the street network
 - Relocation of Kummerer Road: removing the existing Kummerer Road connection to Farmington Avenue and relocating it to Evans Road redirects traffic further away from Route 100 increasing travel time for a majority of site traffic
 - Road Dedication: recommendation to maintain Kummerer as a public road to ensure it remains open to the public for enhanced traffic circulation

10. Municipal Updates

Douglass Township

Mr. Hiryak noted there is nothing additional to report for Douglass Township.

East Coventry Township

Mr. Moyer noted there is nothing additional to report for East Coventry Township.

Lower Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Troutman noted there is nothing additional to report for Lower Pottsgrove Township.

New Hanover Township

Mr. Zebrowski noted that the Board of Supervisors denied the quarry's requests due to not meeting the conditions listed in the 2015 resolution and all of the extensions have expired.

North Coventry Township

Mr. Marks noted there is nothing additional to report for North Coventry Township.

Pottstown Borough

Mr. Procsal noted there is nothing additional to report for Pottstown Borough.

Upper Pottsgrove Township

Mr. Churach noted there is nothing additional to report for Upper Pottsgrove Township.

West Pottsgrove Township

Mr. LaRosa noted that the Panda Express at Upland Square is awaiting waiver approvals.

11. School District Updates: No one was present

12. MCPC Update

Ms. Baer noted the Montco Pikes project and six pikes are being reviewed, one of which is Swamp Pike. Ms. Baer will send the link for the survey.

13. Public Comment: There was no public comment

14. Adjournment

Mr. Troutman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie L. Frisco
Recording Secretary