

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
September 25, 2006 – 4:30 p.m.
Regional Enterprise Tower – 425 Sixth Avenue, 31st Floor – Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The fifty-eighth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman, Bracken Burns.

Commission members present were: Tom Balya, Stephen Bland, Andrew Boni, Bracken Burns, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Jim Gagliano, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, James Kennedy, Ellen Kight, Allen Kukovich, Phil Light, Larry Maggi, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Dan Onorato, William Peduto, Andrew Quinn, Dennis Regan, Rodney Ruddock, Daniel Santoro, James Scahill, Pam Snyder, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Gealy Wallwork and Norma Wintermeyer.

Commission members absent were: Glenn Anderson, Karen Bennett, Susan Borinsky, Charles Camp, Orlando Capretto, Eric Carlson, James Cheatham, Steve Craig, Robert DeLotto, Dan Donatella, Joseph Dubovi III, Richard Fink, Patrick Ford, Edward Fosnaught, David Frick, John Gardner, Joseph Hardy, Dana Henry, Larry King, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Mark Lay, Scott Lowe, Robbie Matesic, Terry McMillen, Larry Morris, Henry Nutbrown, Luke Ravenstahl, Carmen Rozzi, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Joe Spanik, Anthony Spossey, Joe Szczur, Vincent Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, and Angela Zimmerlink.

Others: Nancy Castillo, Coro; Richard Donley, Chaska Property Advisors, Inc.; Karen Rollins-Fitch representing Honorable Jake Wheatley, Jr.; Josh Kane, Coro; Marilyn Skolnick, Sierra Club; Jon Smith; John Verbanac, SPC Consultant; Anisah Watte; Ed Wintermyer;

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, Dave Ginns, Vince Massaro, Jen McClelland, Marge Nalesnick, Shannon O'Connell, Doug Smith, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, Lew Villotti and Sara Walfoort.

1a. Action on Resolution 21-06 Honor the Services of Mayor Bob O'Connor

Commissioner Ceraso moved:

WHEREAS, Bob O'Connor served as a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh and also as Governor Rendell's appointee representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Commission's Executive Committee as well as its Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and worked diligently on Southwestern Pennsylvania's priorities; and

WHEREAS, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation; and

WHEREAS, as Mayor he aggressively moved forward energetically with plans to make his vision of the City of Pittsburgh, the central city of Southwestern Pennsylvania, a reality; and

WHEREAS, he brought his skills and many years of experience that he acquired in his business and public service, and his boundless enthusiasm to all his tasks; and

WHEREAS, he, as “Everybody’s Mayor”, lifted up and inspired the citizens of the City of Pittsburgh to “Redd Up” the community with his aggressive style of “doing it now”; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his many accomplishments, his long record of public service and his dedication to and love of the City of Pittsburgh.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation extend their heartfelt and sincere sympathy to his wife, Judy, the rest of his family, colleagues, and many friends and express their appreciation for his many years of dedicated service.

Commissioner Maggi seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

1b. Action on Resolution 22-06 to Honor the Services of Commissioner Bernie Smith

Commissioner Kennedy moved:

WHEREAS, Since 1996, Bernie Smith served with distinction as an Indiana County representative on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Development Council which ultimately merged with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission to form the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Commission’s Executive Committee as well as its Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and worked diligently on Southwestern Pennsylvania’s priorities; and

WHEREAS, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation and its Property Committee, which oversees the development and operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower, the nation’s first building of its kind dedicated as a hub for regional development; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regional Councils in 2002 and was instrumental in showcasing Southwestern Pennsylvania by utilizing his background in the entertainment industry in bringing the famous Vogues to the closing reception at its National Conference held in Pittsburgh in 2003, where they “brought the house down” for hundreds of members across the country; and

WHEREAS, he was a champion of regionalism and his leadership was marked with integrity, a positive spirit and fervent dedication to the people he served; and

WHEREAS, he brought his skills, experience and enthusiasm to the deliberations of the Commission and gave generously of his time in attending numerous meetings associated with his appointments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation extend their heartfelt and sincere sympathy to his wife, Gladys, the rest of his family, colleagues, and many friends and express their appreciation for his many years of dedicated service.

Commissioner Coder seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

2. Action on Resolution 23-06 to Honor the Services of Co-Chair of the Armstrong County Public Participation Panel Dick Clever

Commissioner Scahill moved:

WHEREAS, Dick Clever of Cowanshannock Township, Armstrong County, served as a member of the Armstrong County Public Participation Panel (PPP) since January, 2003; and

WHEREAS, he assumed the role of Co-Chair of the Armstrong County PPP in March of 2003; and

WHEREAS, the PPP is an integral part of the region's planning process that links citizen participation to the development of our plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, he gave generously of his time to the residents of Armstrong County and to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission during his years of service; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his active leadership as the Co-Chair of the PPP and his commitment to the betterment of our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation extend their heartfelt and sincere sympathy to his wife, Katherine, the rest of his family, colleagues, and many friends and express their appreciation for his dedicated service.

Commissioner Balya seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Action on Minutes of the July 31st Meeting

The minutes of the July 31, 2006 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission were approved on a motion by Mr. Wallwork which was seconded by Mr. Miller. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

4. Public Comment

None

Commissioner Burns asked for a moment of silent meditation to reflect on the members who have passed away.

5. Financial Report

Mr. Massaro presented the combined Financial Report for the Corporation, Commission and the Regional Enterprise Tower for the period ending June 30, 2006. Total project related revenues are \$9.9 million on a revised annual budget and \$7.6 million had been recorded to date or 76.5% of the budget. Carryover budget items from prior years were budgeted at \$695,000 and actual expended is \$288,000 or 41% of the budget. The total project revenues are \$10.7 million budgeted and \$7.9 million actual to date or 74% of the budget.

Revenues from the operation of the Regional Enterprise Tower from July 2005 through June 2006 were budgeted at \$4.7 million with \$5.1 million actual or 108.5% of the budget. The Endowment contribution is budgeted at \$500,000 with \$501,363 or 100.27% of the budget expended. Total revenues budgeted are \$15.9 million and actual to date recorded is \$13.5 million or 85% of the budget.

Total project related expenditures have a revised budget of \$10 million with \$7.7 million actual or 77% of the budget expended. Total carryover project related expenditures are \$615,000, budgeted, \$199,373 recorded or 32% of the budget. Total project expenditures are \$10.6 million budgeted, \$7.9 million recorded or 74.2% of the budget.

The Regional Enterprise Tower expenditures before the amortization and depreciation of capital items for the building is budgeted at \$4.6 million, recorded to date at \$4.5 million or 97% of the budget. Total overall combined expenditures for the Corporation and Affiliates are budgeted at \$16.5 million, with \$13.7 million recorded or 83% of the budget.

Mr. Massaro mentioned that the auditors started the annual audit, which will be completed in approximately six weeks.

The financial report for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was approved on a motion by Commissioner Snyder which was seconded by Mr. Kukovich.

In response to a question asked by Mr. Miller, Mr. Massaro said that revenues are not recognized until expenditures are recorded. Mr. Miller then asked if 60% of the project related expenditures was realized, did that mean that 60% of the projects were completed. Mr. Massaro said that it did not always represent the same percentage completed as expended. We can do additional notes in future reports to provide more explanation.

The affirmative vote was unanimous.

6. Presentation on Congestion Management Process

Mr. Smith presented a website demonstration on the regional Congestion Management Process which can be accessed through SPC's website, www.spcregion.org. Included on the website is an introduction about congestion and an explanation of the Congestion Management Process, i.e. how it works, what's being measured, how often the data is collected, and what's not measured. Several examples were outlined – the S.R. 8 North of Saxonburg Boulevard and I-579 Veteran's Bridge. Mr. Smith also explained that the Strategies section is currently under construction.

7. Action on Resolution 24-06 to Adopt an Ethics Policy

Mr. Burns reported that since everyone needed to read the Ethics Policy and complete the Potential Conflict-of Interest Declaration beforehand, he would ask only for a motion on the topic. Mr. Boni moved:

WHEREAS, the SPC COMMISSIONERS are all volunteers who have a strong personal commitment to continuously improve the quality of our region and the transportation planning and development system; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve this objective, it is essential that the credibility of the Commission's actions be first and foremost in the minds of its members; and

WHEREAS, adoption of a code of ethics will add clarity to Commissioners' responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION hereby approves and adopts an agency-wide ETHICS POLICY as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SPC Executive Director is hereby authorized to implement necessary administrative processes to effectuate this policy.

Commissioner Light seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

8. Progress Report on Project Region

Mr. Villotti reported on the progress of Project Region. A PowerPoint presentation was made of technical work that was previously concluded and for work that still needed to be done. Initial public input included work from Project Region/TIP workshops, Sustainable Forums & Smart Growth Conferences and economic development workshops. Meetings of work groups and regional partners are planned. Future work includes the development of scenarios for public outreach, technical completion for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and for Technical/Legal Compliance. The Plan needs to be adopted no later than June 30, 2007 by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

An introduction of regional perspectives was given based on a compilation of what we know about the region, i.e., trends, plans and work programs based on a review of plans and strategies at the state, regional and local levels, as well as from public comment from various meetings hosted or co-hosted by SPC. There have been approximately 50 presentations and 600 respondents to date on the Project Region Interactive/Web Survey. Several highlights from these responses were reviewed. In addition, regional perspectives on what the practitioners and the public say regarding transportation and community & economic development also were highlighted.

9. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

Dr. Hassinger introduced Jen McClelland as SPC's Business Finance Assistant Manager reporting to Mr. Wallace and David Ginns a Transportation Planner reporting to Sara Walfoort. He also introduced Nancy Castillo and Josh Kane who have served SPC as interns from the Coro Center for Civic Leadership.

Commissioners Burns announced that the next meeting date will be October 30, 2006.

10. New Business

None

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Camp
Secretary-Treasurer