

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
September 17, 2012 – 4:30 p.m.
9th Floor • Koppers Building • 436 Seventh Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The ninety-eighth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Rod Ruddock.

Members present were: Charles Anderson, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Jack Cohen, Albert D'Alessandro, Tom Ceraso, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Rich Fink, Rich Fitzgerald, Kelly Shroads-Gray, Dave Johnston, Fred Junko, Robert Macey, Larry Maggi, Robbie Matesic, William McCarrier, Kevin McCullough, Rich Palilla, A. Dale Pinkerton, James Ritzman, Rod Ruddock, Harlan Shober, Pam Snyder, and Joe Spanik.

Members absent were: Tony Amadio, Alfred Ambrosini, Shirl Barnhart, David Battaglia, Stephen Bland, Robert Bower, Robert Brooks, Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Tyler Courtney, Joseph Dubovi, Mary Ann Eisenreich, Patricia Evanko, David Frick, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Joe Grata, Lynn Heckman, Dana Henry, Jeff Marshall, Bruce Mazzoni, David Miller, Laura Mohollen, Mary Jo Morandini, Dennis Nichols, William Peduto, Luke Ravenstahl, Carmen Rozzi, Richard Shaw, Daniel C. Shimshock, Renee Sigel, Robert Del Signore, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Wendy Stern, Joe Szczur, Archie Trader, Diana Irey Vaughan, Daniel Vogler, Christopher Wheat, Jake Wheatley, Jr., Angela Zimmerlink, and Yarone Zober.

Others: Tom Halloran, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Chuck DiPietro, Chuck Imbrogno, Rowan Johnston, Tom Klevan, Vince Massaro, Dee Pamplin, Shannon O'Connell, Kathy Stefani, Kay Tomko, David Totten, Debbie Tritsch, Lew Villotti and Sara Walfoort.

Chairman Ruddock welcomed all and called the meeting to order.

1. Action on Minutes of the June 25th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2012 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Pinkerton which was seconded by Commissioner Maggi. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment – None

On a different subject, Chairman Ruddock remarked that in July we had the opportunity to showcase Pittsburgh. Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald hosted the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and Exposition.

Mr. Fitzgerald thanked everyone that helped financially and participated. It was a great success showcasing our region and some of the great things that are going on. We can all be proud of what we have here. With Jim Scahill's leadership years ago when he wanted to get it here, he lobbied; and won successfully to have the national conference here. He was bursting with pride throughout the whole conference. People were very impressed with Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania.

Chairman Ruddock noted that Jim Scahill was appointed by NACo, as ambassador of the NACo Conference.

He also commented that at the last PA County Commissioner's Association Meeting Commissioner Pam Snyder was awarded the Outstanding Commissioner of the Year.

3. County Project – Dave Johnston

Mr. Johnston reported on Butler County bridges relaying that Butler County has 789 sq miles. There are approximately 184,000 residents making us a fourth class county. The City of Butler was included in a list of the "20 Best Small Towns in America" in the May 2012 issue of Smithsonian Magazine. We have a six-man bridge group that work on replacing three bridges per year. Kevin Gray, who worked in Green County, now works for Butler County as bridge coordinator.

Mr. Cohen remarked on Butler County's Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival, which was put together to tell about the rich history of Butler County. The Bantam Jeep was invented in 1940 in Butler County, when it received a government contract to help the war effort of World War II. Last year was our first year for this event, and we had 70,000 people show up with their Jeeps. This year there was a 14% increase over last year. There was a Canadian Army unit that participated in the festival because of the rich history of the Jeep. They took a Jeep apart in 4 minutes and put it back together in 3½ minutes.

Mr. Cohen presented an overview of the bridges of Butler County. The completion of one bridge project will facilitate the National Pyrotechnic Convention to be held in Butler County in 2013. The convention will be held at Coopers Lake Camp Ground in August. The bridge had to be replaced in order to hold this event, which will generate 200,000 people in a week. The economic impact for our community will be between \$5M and \$5.5M in revenues. The cost to repair the bridge is approximately \$300,000.

4. Staff Profile – Dave Totten

Mr. Klevan began by describing some elements of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project; he then introduced Dave Totten, SPC Transit Planner.

Mr. Totten gave a summary of his career explaining that he received a B.A. in Journalism at the University of Alaska. Radio Reporter: 1994-2005. Received MPA, University of Pittsburgh GSPIA, 2007. He worked at Lehigh Valley Planning Commission as an Affordable Housing and Smart Growth Planner. Now, back in Pittsburgh as an SPC Transit Planner he can indulge his number one obsession, which is transit oriented development, which he thinks is the best way to implement smart growth.

5. TOD Presentation of Recent Products – Dave Totten

Mr. Totten noted the involvement of SPC staff in several Transit Oriented Development projects, including the City of Pittsburgh's East Liberty and South Hills Metro Area Transit Revitalization Improvement District studies and the production of the "Future Investment in TOD" (FIT) workbook and website. Mr. Totten presented the following facts of the recent TOD products:

Linking Sustainable Communities and Alternative Transportation

This UPWP project was completed in 2012. It researched the connections and measurable success factors between affordable housing, TOD and alternative transit services, such as ACCESS or other shared ride services. SPC research consultants, Delta Development, Inc., examined sustainable community success factors for places around the SPC region, including Uniontown, Waynesburg, Indiana, Washington, New Castle and McKeesport. SPC staff used GIS technology to map walksheds around key Alternative Transportation destinations to identify potential future transit service or TOD development opportunities.

Model TOD Overlay Zoning Ordinance

Using the FIT workbook and website as a starting point, SPC staff and consultants developed a new guidebook for use by municipal planning officials to prepare their communities for TOD opportunities. Mr. Totten demonstrated a mock-up example of the booklet. The finished product, called "FIT: Zoning", will also be adapted as a website.

Mon Valley TOD Prototypes

Mr. Totten presented a new UPWP project for 2012-13 called "Mon Valley TOD Prototypes". This project seeks to put the previous TOD research into practice in the Lower Mon Valley region of Allegheny County. The Sustainable Communities success factors developed by Delta (now called "FIT: Places") will be used to examine six communities from Homestead to Clairton. This work will identify potential TOD sites and transit service opportunities. The original FIT process will be used in one location as a pilot study with FIT: Zoning presented as an implementation option. In addition, the project will develop four "TOD Prototypes" as examples of what kinds of TOD might be possible in Mon Valley places. This project will coordinate closely with "Allegheny Places", the county comprehensive land use plan. The project will be completed in June of 2013.

6. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Mr. Massaro reported on the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 budget. The auditors are presently doing an audit. They will have a two-week break because of our move, returning the first week of October to finish. The preliminary report will be presented to the Audit Committee. The final audit report to be presented to the Commissioners at the December meeting for approval.

He continued reporting showing total project revenues showing \$13.3 million actual and encumbered to date \$12.6 million or 94% of the budget reported and encumbered.

Total carry-over project related revenues (projects carried over from previous years) this would be the Regional Traffic Signal Cycle I project is \$1.39 million budgeted, we encumbered 100% of those revenues.

Under expenditures the total project related expenditures of \$13.3 million, \$12.6 million actual encumbered to date or 94% of the budget. Carry-over project related expenditures, is 100% encumbered. We have a sufficient amount of revenues coming in to cover all expenditures budgeted for the year. All contracts have been signed and executed.

7. Action to Ratify the Email/Fax Votes to Amend Article 13 – Bylaws – Jim Hassinger

Mr. Hassinger recalled the amendment to Article 13 of the Bylaws requesting the Commissioners votes to amend Article 13 to:

Officers to serve a two-year term rather than the traditional one-year term;

The Executive Committee Members to serve a two-year term rather than the current one-year term; and

To state more clearly that the Chairman may appoint ad hoc committees.

These amendments as per the bylaws procedure needed to be approved by a majority of the Commissioners. A majority of the fax-votes have come back from the Commission members and we would now ask for a motion to ratify acceptance of the amendments to Article 13, Sections 13.4, 13.17, 13.30 and 13.32.

Robert Macey motioned to approve the amendments to Article 13 of the Bylaws:

13.4 Officers of the COMMISSION: The officers of the **COMMISSION** shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer. Each officer shall hold office for a term of two years or until their successor has been elected.

13.17 Terms: The **COMMISSIONERS** at alternate annual membership meetings shall elect an **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**. Each **COMMISSIONER** shall be elected for a term of two years and shall hold office until his successor shall have been elected and has qualified.

13.30 Ad Hoc Committees: The Chairman may, from time to time, as he or she deems necessary, or shall, as directed by action of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**, appoint Ad Hoc Committees. The creation of ad hoc committees, except by direction of the **COMMISSION**, shall be ratified by the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**. Ad hoc committees may be continued by succeeding Chairmen, but upon every third anniversary of such committee the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** shall review its mission and recommend that the Committee be dissolved, continued as an ad hoc committee, or made a permanent standing committee by amendment to these bylaws.

13.32 Term of Office: Each officer and assistant officer shall hold office for a term of two years or until his successor shall have been elected.

Commissioner Maggi seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hassinger also reported that items that needed ratification by the member bodies themselves having to do with Article 2, Definition of an MPO; the ten counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland) and the City of Pittsburgh shall be eligible to join the commission as a member. Also, we asked reconfirmation of the terms of Commissioners for four years. These passed by action of two-thirds of the bodies and therefore become an amendment that is accepted in the Articles.

8. Action to Ratify Executive Committee's Resolution 7-12, on behalf of the Commission, dated July 30, 2012 to Honor the Services of Mark Schneider

Mr. Hassinger said another item that we want to get ratification on is Resolution 7-12, passed by the Executive Committee in July. We wanted the full Commission to have the opportunity to make this recognition to honor the services of Commissioner Mark Schneider who died tragically in an accident.

Commissioner Snyder read Resolution 7-12.

Commissioner Craig motioned to approve Resolution 7-12:

WHEREAS, Mark Schneider served as a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) representing the City of Pittsburgh from January, 2005 until December, 2007; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a member of SPC representing Allegheny County from February, 2006 until his passing on July 29, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mark Schneider was an active member of SPC's Regional Policy Advisory Committee involved in issues important to the vitality of the region, including transportation partnerships, transit oriented development activities now being advanced through SPC's Unified Planning Work Program, and the SPC Regional Smart Transportation Initiative that is funded for advancement as part of the recently adopted 2013-2016 TIP; and

WHEREAS, he was a key participant in many SPC Annual Policy Retreats over the years that helped chart policy direction of the Commission in both transportation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, he was a leader in the development of a sustainability focus in the region's long range plan which set policy for the region's planning to emphasize revitalization of existing communities; and

WHEREAS, he was a regional leader and advocate for bike and pedestrian friendly development throughout the region through better planning and development of brownfield sites, urban renewal projects, and emerging development projects; 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 will be remembered for his many accomplishments, his long record of volunteer service and his dedication and love not only to the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County but to all of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the staff extend their heartfelt and sincere sympathy to his father, Clement; his son, Max; his daughter, Ryan; the rest of the 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.

Commissioner Ruddock remarked that as part of this recognition we have provided a rose in honor of Mark Schneider and his service to SPC and all the organizations that he represented.

9. Other Business/Announcements – Jim Hassinger

Mr. Hassinger informed the Commissioners that the next meeting of the Commission will be held at our meeting space on the 4th Floor of Two Chatham Center on October 29th at 4:30 p.m. The meeting room is similar in size to the old meeting room on the 31st floor.

Another quick note that I wanted you to know is concerning Kay Tomko, who suffered an injury in an accident walking downtown. She is recuperating and will be back soon, ready, willing and able to serve the Commission as she has done for many years.

10. New Business – None

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Snyder
Secretary-Treasurer