

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
BERKS COUNTY SERVICES CENTER  
633 COURT STREET, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR.  
READING, PA 19601-4309

October 11, 2023

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Jodi L. Gauker called the monthly meeting of the Berks County Planning Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, in person at the Berks County Planning Commission's Library Conference room.

The following members were present:

Jodi L. Gauker, Chairwoman  
Glenn R. Knoblauch  
Lisa Weaver, Secretary  
Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD  
Lee C. Olsen, AIA, NCARB  
David H. Turner  
David N. Peris, Assistant County Solicitor

Also Attending:

David N. Hunter, Sr., AICP, Executive Director  
Ashley J. Showers, Assistant Director  
Beth Burkovich, GIS Analyst  
Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler  
Taylor Lawrence, Planner II  
Laura Mursch, Intergovernmental Planner III  
Alan D. Piper, Transportation Planner III  
Richard L. Royer, Design Planner  
Matthew McGough, Transportation Planner III  
Michelle Franklin, Subdivision Planner III  
Shanice Ellison, Planner I  
Cheryl Auchenbach, Community Planner III  
Devon Hain, Transportation Planner II  
Amanda Timochenko, Transportation Planner II  
Jaime Perez, County Redevelopment Authority  
Pamela Shupp, Deputy CAO, Director of Economic Development

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director David Hunter began his report by updating everyone on how the PSATS workshop from earlier in the day went. Mr. Hunter also acknowledge the hard work Laura Mursch had done on the Joint Comprehensive Plan program. Mr. Hunter also invited everyone to several upcoming events, including the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the November 16<sup>th</sup> County Commissioners Meeting where the Leesport Borough and Ontelaunee Township Comprehensive Plan amendment request should be decided.

In conclusion, Mr. Hunter discussed attending the PennDOT Planning Partners Conference at State College.

B. STAFF REPORTS

a. **Shanice Ellison**

**31 Montello Road – Spring Township**

The plan was reviewed as a Preliminary Plan located in Spring Township. It is a residential plan with two 2-story buildings with 8 units in each building. It is designated in the County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map as Existing Development; and therefore, is consistent. The comment made on this plan was to make the open alley into a private road since the owner owned the open alley.

Discussion ensued regarding the plan, comments, and concerns on the amount of parking spaces per unit.

b. **Shanice Ellison**

**Berks County Waste Transfer Facility – Cumru Township**

The plan was reviewed as a Final Plan in Cumru Township for a waste transfer facility. It is designated in the County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map as a Designated Growth Area. The comments made on this plan were to review with PennDOT the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) since the proposal shows it is using the existing HOP permit. The existing Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) is for a warehouse, which is a different use from the waste transfer facility. It was also recommended that the applicant contact and work with the Schuylkill River Greenway Association since the Schuylkill River Trail abuts the property.

Discussion ensued regarding the plan, comments, and concerns on the waste transfer facility. Ms. Ashley Showers and Mr. Alan Piper also mentioned additional information on the purpose of the waste transfer facility.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of September 13, 2023, Minutes

B. Reports for Approval

- Land Development & Subdivision Activity Report/Summary
- Endorsed Land Development & Subdivision Activity

MOTION: David H. Turner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Glenn R. Knoblauch and passed unanimously.

5. STAFF, STAKEHOLDER AND BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

**A. Pamela Shupp Menet – Imagine Berks Year 1 Report**

Pamela Shupp Menet began her presentation with acknowledging all the hard work put into getting Imagine Berks on the map. Ms. Menet discussed the key principles of the plan and how there are six focus areas that provide the foundation for realizing the vision. Ms. Menet went on to share the first-year goals and accomplishments of Imagine Berks.

In conclusion, Ms. Menet discussed the successes made and the challenges encountered in the first year of Imagine Berks. She shared the second-year key actions for Imagine Berks.

Discussion ensued on the great presentation conducted by Pamela Shupp Menet. Points were made on the success and challenges encountered on the road to improve Berks County.

**B. Jaime Perez – Imagine Berks Housing and Beyond**

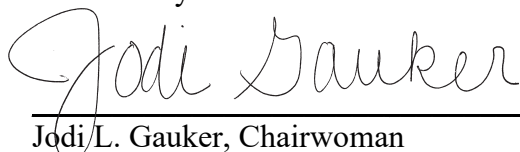
Jaime Perez began his presentation by introducing himself and stating his position and how it came about. He gave an overview of the goals his position will help accomplish and the reasons why it was created. The position focuses on housing to address the County's needs for new housing and redeveloped housing that is accessible and attainable. Mr. Perez works with the County Planning Commission, Economic Development Department, and Berks County Redevelopment Authority to promote development and adaptive reuse.

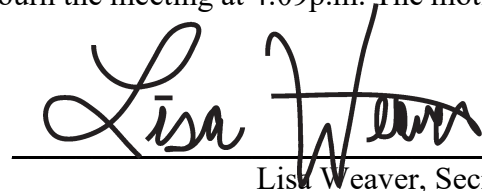
In conclusion, Mr. Perez discussed the accomplishments made in the first year towards the Housing focus area of Imagine Berks; and the upcoming second year goals.

Discussion ensued on the presentation conducted by Jaime Perez. Discussion points were made on the amount allocated in the budget for the Whole-Home Repair Program and the future growth of the program.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: David H. Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:09p.m. The motion was seconded by Lisa Weaver.

  
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Jodi L. Gauker, Chairwoman

  
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Lisa Weaver, Secretary