

## **Berks County Operations Minutes May 10, 2022**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, and via Microsoft Teams Live pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Chair Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Michael S. Rivera in attendance. Also present were Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor, Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer, and Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk.

### Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of May 3, 2022 were approved as presented.

9:30am – 10:00am

**Department of Ag update – will include an agricultural situation review, departmental strategy, summary of activities from July '21 – March '22, and proposed calendar of events & initiatives for 2022. - Emily Wangolo, Deputy Director, Dept. of Agriculture, and Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director, Dept. of Agriculture**

Emily Wangolo, Deputy Director of Agriculture, and Tami Hildenbrand, Executive Director of Department of Agriculture, presented the board with a presentation giving an agricultural update, a listing of upcoming events, and initiatives for 2022 to include a strategic approach to addressing the needs, engaging in the community, and addressing complex challenges. Tammy Hildebrand presented some of the highlights of the Agriculture Land Preservation program. Some of the categories covered in the presentation were the number of Farms and acres preserved and the investments made by the State and County. Emily Wangolo closed the presentation by discussing the steps that will be taken toward the big vision to propel us toward a vibrant Agriculture business in Berks County.

10:00am – 10:15am

**Stonecliffe Action Park improvements through potential collaboration with the Reading Skatepark Association. - J.D. Turner, Holistic Skate Shop & Cathy Wegener, Director of Parks & Rec**

J.D. Turner, Holistic Skate Shop, spoke about the much-needed improvements to the Stonecliffe Action Park skate ramps. Mr. Turner indicated that the current state of the skate ramps is a hazard to skaters due to the ramp skate plates needing to be replaced. Mr. Turner explained to the board the differences between the steal ramps versus concrete ramps and the benefits of using concrete ramps. Cathy Wegener, Director of Parks & Recreation, supports the much-needed improvements and noted the improvements have been on hold. The upgrades will make the park more welcoming to the community and be a good step for the County to take.

Mr. Turner gave the Commissioners an update on the downtown Canal St. project and a breakdown of the phases it will take to complete it.

Commissioners indicated they support the necessary improvements as long as Cathy Wagener, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Brendan Lederer, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, and the Parks and Recreation Board support them.

10:15am – 10:30am

**ARP Application Update – Informational Purposes Only – Pam Shupp Menet,  
Deputy/CAO Director of Economic Development & Karra Mayo, Grants Coordinator**

Karra Mayo, Grants Coordinator, gave an update on the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Ms. Mayo indicated that we had received 160 applications totaling 42.3 million dollars in requests. Upon reviewing the applications, 113 applications are being recommended for submission to the ARP application review committee. A total of 47 applications are not being submitted to the review committee for various reasons, such as application completeness and proposed projects not meeting the review criteria for the funding program. The meetings for the review committee have been scheduled, and they will review and rank the applications, which then will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for final approval on or about mid-June 2022.

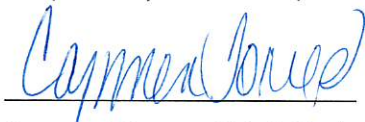
Commissioner Leinbach noted that the Commissioners had not seen any of the applications. He stated that the Commissioners received six recommendations for review and approval earlier this week.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to approve the six recommendations and move forward with notifying the 47 applications that are not being submitted for funding recommendation. Commissioner Rivera seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

No Comments.

There being no further business, Commissioner Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk