

Jim Thorpe Planning Commission
March 20, 2018

Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call of members: Lou Hall, Nancy Porambo, Jolene Evans, Joanne Klitsch, Joe Micko
Absent: Clem McGinley, John McGuire

Visitors present: Kevin Marmas, Dennis R. Connell, A/A, Matt Boggs, Kurtis Jackson, Andrew Roberts, James Dougher, Michael Rivkin, Chris Prokop

Approval of minutes:

County Plans for 76 Susquehanna St.

Kevin Marmas, McCarthy Engineering, representing Dennis Connell with proposed office building with 2 levels of parking for county uses. The site contains the 76 building, 44 building and 40 spaces reserved for county employees. The 44 building would be removed. The building will be three stories, the first and second for parking and the third for office space with courtroom.

Off street parking, (102 plus 3 additional spaces). Submitted sketch plan and waiting for review from Borough engineer for approval. The purpose would be to go from prelim plan to final then combining to one final approval process. They received a letter from Entech Engineering.

Nancy asked about the church and feedback from them. Jolene asked how far back building went. They are going back 50' back into the mountain. Kevin stated work is being done with the church on the Tiffany glass. They are bringing in consultants to look at windows, set-up some meters to measure vibrations. Geo-tech Engineer doesn't think vibrations are an issue. Jolene indicated the church is built into the rock. Joanne stated she is concerned with the amount of traffic. Kevin stated they would need highway occupancy permits. There are two entrances, depressed curve for entrance into garage building.

A dumpster pad is another thing there is concern about. Lou suggested the County Commissioners be involved in this planning because of the plans that are going on with the bike path, etc., going on in the area. Pedestrians would be a concern. Joe, signage will have to be organized with PennDot.

Joe, will employees leaving at the end of the day exiting the building be an issue? There are 20 county vehicles that will be parked in the garage. During the day, the bulk of the vehicles will be in and out. Lou said it's critical that the County be involved in this. Joanne, has the County considered other options. Mr. Connell stated it didn't meet the specifications needed for this project.

The primary motivator is to consolidate the work being done at the sites. The Annex, its' just congested. They are trying to look 20 years out. They anticipate 66 employees. How many spots are reserved for court? They don't need the courtroom at this time, it's for meeting their needs in the future.

Matthew stated there are additional spots across the street, fire protection and how there is access. Dennis, the new system will be built with sprinklers. Lou, is there a recommendation about the amount of traffic with the new foot bridge? Dennis said yes. Lou asked if it was possible to make a foot bridge to the building. He would like to make a recommendation for this. Dennis agreed to consider it.

There was question about the parking spaces for the church people? Dennis indicated the population is ageing and the participation is down. Nancy corrected by stating that the new minister has had a surge of people attending.

There will be an elevator from the parking lot. There will be two, one from the port to Sheriff's offices and one from lobby. They also have handicapped access. Joanne indicated the traffic is a concern and she can only see this getting worse. PennDot will be involved and the County needs more feedback. Dennis indicated it has and they are aware of it.

Joe asked if water run-off has been considered? They indicated yes. There were also concerns noted about moving stone with the trucks coming in and out. They don't have a start date of the project, it may be over a year out from starting.

The existing powerlines are on that side, they will have to reroute to the other side in order to get cranes into the site. Lou questioned, "What's the urgency of merging things". Lou stated that we can typically turn-around a project from preliminary to permanent in 30 days. Dennis indicated they don't want to just drop the information on us and that's why they're here. Lou indicated this is the first we have seen the information and we need to be able to think about things.

Kurt Jackson asked if it's EnTech's position that they are not recommending a traffic study? Matt stated they (are) recommending a study. Dennis then gave a conceptual exterior view of the project. Kurt, what is your groundbreaking scheduled month? Dennis said not at this point. Commissioners are interested in getting this done during their terms. Start to finish 18 months. Consideration of work during the evening is possible in order to lessen traffic concerns. Lou asked that they get back to us as soon as possible with information as to whether the County will get involved with the traffic concerns.

Nancy asked if they could share what other site was considered? Dennis indicated it was next to the Annex.

Ordinance X-2018 Zoning Ordinance amending regulations for signs:

Lou motioned to table this till next meeting, Jolene seconded. Motion carried.

Status of previous meeting tasks:

Re-addressing Eastern Side Leisureland

Next meeting is April 8th. We are just about finished with the readdressing.

West Broadway Parking

Clem made several comments for which a draft was made. Lou asked if anyone had comment, no-one did. Begins at address #5 to #415, we are creating permit parking for this area. When residents get permits, its annual or temporary. The permit will have sticker on window for residents only.

We are proposing after 5 p.m. and weekends permit parking only.

Kurt asked what's proves you are a resident? Lou, electric bill for instance.

Full or part-time are up to 2. One temporary car can be purchased. Some residents are concerned about automobiles that remain parked. There is an enforcement challenge. James Dougher indicates there will be issues on High Street. Lou requested that James attend the public meeting, bring residents from High Street.

Nancy recommended that the ordinance be sent to Borough Council with the suggestion that High Street be considered for inclusion and that a letter be sent to affected residents for feedback, Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Short-Term Rentals

Lou stated their committee had some good discussions and they will be bringing something forward soon.

Discussion of Projects:

Borough Park Planning Review, grant application

Joe indicated he is working on getting something going on a bigger scope. He indicated he will talk to Maureen.

Lou stated John is working on the burn ordinance.

Lou asked that we review the County plans, Ordinance X, Lou will scan the burn ordinance sent to us and Joe will give us information on the grant. He asked that everyone review them for next month.

Andrew indicated according to the ordinance on parking, if you are a renter of an apartment without a PA address, you cannot park there. There needs to be an adjustment, "(or) a lease agreement"

Nancy motioned to adjourn, Jolene seconded. Motion carried. 7:50 p.m.