

CAPE MAY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Will Morey
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Established 1953

Leslie L. Gimeno, PP, AICP

Planning Director

Cape May County Planning Board Minutes of the Meeting of January 17th, 2019 5:00 P.M., Intermediate Meeting Room County Administration Building 4 Moore Road Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairperson Boeshe; she subsequently read the public meeting notice.

Following the flag salute, roll call was taken with the following members being present:

Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Ashman	x	
Ms. Boeshe	x	
Mr. Bulakowski	x	
Mr. Church	x	
Freeholder Morey	X	
Mr. Rixey		x
Mr. Simone	x	
Freeholder Director Thornton	x	

Others in Attendance:

Leslie Gimeno, PP, AICP, County Planning Director
Katelynn Wintz, AICP, Assistant Planner
Scott Mullen, Senior Planning Aide

Report of Nominating Committee:

Ms. Gimeno said that her recommendation is to return the current slate of officers for the Board to their respective posts for 2019, with Mr. Church taking the place of Mr. Foster. This would be Ms. Boeshe as Chairperson, Mr. Rixey as Vice-Chairperson, and Mr. Church as Secretary. Mr. Ashman made a motion to affirm this slate of officers; Mr. Thornton seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all members to be in favor.

Director's Report:

Ms. Gimeno said that there were no minutes from the November 15th meeting, as the Board did not have a quorum present. She then said that Freeholder Director Thornton and Freeholder Morey had both been appointed as members to the Planning Board for 2019 via Freeholders' Resolution # 16-19.

She then directed Board Members' attention to the New Jersey Planning Officials' newsletter, where Andrew Bulakowski was listed as a member of the NJPO Board of Directors. Ms. Gimeno congratulated Mr. Bulakowski on his appointment and thanked him for his service on that statewide organization.

Ms. Gimeno said that the Department will be working to revise the Subdivision and Site Plan Resolution, which sets the standards for County development review. She indicated that the current version dates from 2011, and that a number of adjustments, clarifications, and revisions are needed. It is anticipated that the revision process will take approximately 4 – 6 months, and ultimately Freeholder action will need to be taken to formally adopt the new document.

New Business:

2020 Complete County Committee: Ms. Gimeno referred to an article from CNBC entitled "Why people are fleeing this state more than any other" dated 1/17/19 which she had placed in each Board members' folders. She said that the article, which identified NJ as being #1 in population loss, was a good Segway into why the 2020 Census is so important to the County. She introduced Katelynn Wintz, Assistant Planner, who is in attendance to discuss establishing a "Complete Count Committee".

Katelynn thanked the Board members for the opportunity to speak with them, and said that the decennial Census is mandated by the Constitution, and that there are a number of important ways that it is used, which includes apportionment of the House of Representatives. She described the methodology for data collection, and mentioned that in addition to the Census, there was also the American Community Survey. Mr. Ashman asked how the County population has fared, and Ms. Wintz said that according to the most recent ACS, the County is down to 94,000.

She said that Census day is April 1st, 2020, and that it is important to start getting the word out about how important it is for people to participate. She said that the data will be collected online via voluntary participation, and that direct mailings and finally site work by enumerators would be used when people don't engage directly online. She said that this methodology should ultimately save costs, which is beneficial as the Census Bureau's budget continues to decline.

She then talked about the Complete County Committee, which would be established to raise awareness of the Census and the importance of participation. She said that the County would lead the effort, and would engage our local municipalities, schools, and other entities in an attempt to get the word out to all aspects of our population. Ms. Gimeno said that past Complete Count Committees were successful in engaging other community-based organizations such as churches onto the team, as well.

After some general discussion on demographics, Ms. Boeshe thanked Ms. Wintz for her presentation.

Department Updates: In other New Business, Ms. Gimeno provided an update on the Creative Placemaking initiative being undertaken by the Open Space Program. She said that the effort will raise awareness about the County's investment in public spaces via the

grant program. Freeholder Morey said that the County taxpayers contribute almost \$5 million into the program each year, with the dedicated tax. He said that the objective is to have folks recognize and see the fruit of their investments on a regional basis, and to understand the quality of life benefits the enhancements bring. Ms. Gimeno described some of the projects that had come into the program, and how they seemed to be full of basic site amenities, but that very few had the quality of enhancements that gave sites the sense of place that the Open Space Board was looking for. Therefore, the Board developed a Request for Proposals for Creative Placemaking Services, which is a blend of professional planning, landscape architecture, and graphic design services. She said that the firm of “Designing Local” had been the unanimous choice, and that they had begun work on the project in the fall. Ms. Gimeno indicated that the project had received lots of stakeholder input, and that so far the work product which includes custom architectural site elements and design standards, had been very well received. Mr. Bulakowski said that he understood and supported the desire to create a recognizable brand identity, and to leave people with good impressions of their visits to the variety of sites and amenities provided by the Program.

Development Review Committee Report:

Mr. Mullen gave an overview of development review fees collected by the Department, and said that in 2018, there were \$6,000 in application fees for subdivisions and \$7,910 for site plans. He said that there were many redevelopment applications, and that two alternate fuel facilities (Tesla electric vehicle charging station and a compressed natural gas fueling station) had been proposed. One of the more recent larger applications is for the development of a wooded site adjacent Cape Regional Medical Center, where an ambulatory surgery center is planned. In response to a question posed by Freeholder Morey, Mr. Mullen said that there had not been any applications related to apartment complexes during 2018.

Old Business:

Water Quality Management Plan: Ms. Gimeno said that work continues to advance on the Water Quality Management Plan, and that all of the individual municipal chapters would be completed by mid-February. She said that she was in the process of developing an update to be sent to each of the municipalities, and that each of them would be asked to provide a resolution of support for the project and authorizing the County to submit their chapter to the NJDEP. She indicated that there would be a presentation by our consultants during the Caucus meeting scheduled for March 12th, and encouraged interested Board members to attend. Ms. Gimeno confirmed that we are on schedule for a May, 2019 submission of the county-wide plan to the NJDEP.

Transportation Comments:

Mr. Church gave an update on transportation issues that included the following:

- Sea Isle Boulevard continues to advance, with paving occurring in the next few days. He indicated that the road is in its final configuration, with 2-12' lanes and 2 8' shoulders. He stated that the final surface course would be laid

down in the Spring, and that any dips would be levelled prior to the final course application.

- Mr. Church provided an overview of the Wildwood Gateway Project, which will make drainage and circulation improvements to the area of Rio Grande Avenue between the George Redding Bridge and Arctic Avenue. He said that it would be a phased project, with Spring 2019 being the installation of a new pump station for stormwater and the Fall 2019 being for roadwork. He said that the new configuration would be 2 lanes in each direction, with a center turn lane, which would greatly reduce traffic congestion.
- Mr. Church then described the local lead concept development project for the replacement of the Middle Thorofare, Upper Thorofare, and Mill Creek Bridges and roadway, which has been funded by a \$1 million Federal grant via the SJTPO. He said that the project had started with 9 alternatives and that over a 6-month time period, stakeholders had narrowed these down. He expects the preliminarily preferred alternative to be identified by June; this will identify what is feasible. Then, funding would be sought for engineering and design.
- The roundabout at 550 & 610 in Woodbine is advancing, and funding is in place. Mr. Thornton asked about the status of the West Cape May Roundabout. Mr. Church said that there were a number of easements that needed to be acquired as part of that project, and that this had caused the project to advance at a slower pace than the Woodbine project. Next steps on the West Cape May project would be public outreach and municipal endorsement

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

At 6:04, Mr. Ashman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Simone seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, 5:00 PM
