

ERIE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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WORK SESSION
March 9, 2016 at 3:30 pm
Harborcreek Township

REPORT

Delegates and Alternates		In Attendance
Nancy Agostine	Summit Township	No
Jay Breneman	County Council	No
Dennis Howard	Franklin Township	Excused
Brian McGrath	Millcreek Township	Yes
Cas Kwitowski	City of Erie Council	No
Jean Rodemaker	Lawrence Park	No
Tim May	Harborcreek Township	Excused
Dennis McNally	Girard Borough	Yes
Jill Merritt & Paul Bills	Wesleyville Borough	Yes
Mas Sala	City of Erie, Mayor's representative	Yes
Kathy Wyrosdick	County Executive's Representative	Yes
Joe Peck	Harborcreek Township	Yes
Guests and others in Attendance:		
Jessica Horan-Kunco	EA COG	yes
Anna Frantz	Emerge 2040	Yes
Sheila Sterrett	Senator Toomey's office	Yes
John Morgan	Millcreek Township	Yes

Meeting called to order at 3:40

1. Old Business

A. Joint purchasing quantities and specs needed asap

We want to include all interested municipalities. The first set of bids is for road materials the second will be general materials. We are looking for other materials to add, maybe pool materials and ice melt. Some school districts participate so we are looking for more materials that both municipalities and school districts use.

B. Zoning Hearing Board Training: scheduled for April 20 at 5:00 – 8:30 at Summit Township

DECD will provide one speaker at no charge and County Planning has agreed to pick up the cost of the 2nd speaker. Cog will do the planning invitations, registration, set up and refreshments.

Member Governments

Boroughs of: Girard • Wesleyville • City of Erie • County of Erie

Townships of: Franklin • Harborcreek • Lawrence Park • Millcreek • Summit

Cog members need to set the registration fee. Members discussed a \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Please invite anyone you think would benefit from the training: Zoning Hearing Board members, zoning officers, newly elected officials, solicitors, etc.

2. New Business

A. Erie County Trails Workshop, March 23 2-5 at the Erie County Conservation District

1. Background Anna Frantz

This workshop is expected to begin the conversation of how municipalities can define the project that they can work together on whether it is just consistent signage or connections to other trails. The intent is to enhance our trails and outdoor experiences through collaboration.

One of our presenters is the Industrial Heartland Trail Organization which encompasses over 1400 miles of trails. Currently, there is a large gap in the network that could be filled if we can drive local interest and support. There is significant data to support the economic benefits of trails in a community. The focus of the workshop will be to identify existing trails and opportunities and envision potential connections and project opportunities. Since signage has been identified as a need, Cog could help seek funding and grants and assist with the process through the sign trust. Invitees include: DCNR, Visit Erie, Northwest PA Trail Association (need a contact-Greg Troyer possibly), Impact Corry, Port Authority and all municipalities in Erie County.

2. Municipal benefits

A county-wide project can drive investment and use of your existing park and rec opportunities and therefore have economic benefits to our municipalities.

3. COG role

Continue to reach out to invite every municipality to participate in the project. Cog can be applicant for Multi-municipal grant funding.

It was recommended that a non-profit organization purchase land for trails instead of a government entity, Corry has a relatively smooth experience due to this.

4. Upcoming Important dates:

March 23 - 2:00 Trail Workshop Erie Conservation District

April 20 - 5:00 Zoning Hearing Board Member training Summit

May 11 - 3:00 COG – Next Cog meeting -Strategic Plan Presentation Millcreek

Meeting adjourned at 4:23PM

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