

(N) B.I.G Meeting Agenda

March 9, 2009

Avalon Borough Hall, 640 California Avenue, Avalon, PA 15202

Tri-Borough's Planning Commission –Scott Keener

- Joint Planning Commission initiated –Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon at the end of 2008
- Tri-Boro Comprehensive planning initiative was adopted in 2004 by all 3 boroughs
- Purpose to update maintain and implement a Zoning ordinance to be adopted by 3 boroughs; content sourced from prior individual borough's zoning plans, compiling, weeding out duplications, streamlining and modifying for current and future considerations of land use.
- "The Zoning Ordinance is one step; the Zoning Ordinance is a tool to be used; appropriate in conjunction with North Boroughs Initiative for Growth"
- Tri-Borough Comprehensive Plan -Executive summary includes "Resources and Opportunities"
- Community focus groups comprised of residents, business owners, and municipal leaders contributed to the draft document reviewing zoning deficiencies, redundant descriptions
- The last section of the proposed plan identifies "Liabilities and Challenges" including -loss of population, economic vitality of Ohio River Boulevard, property maintenance, streetscape improvements, recommendations, signage, inter-borough path systems, wet weather parks.
- The Joint Zoning Ordinance is a shared vision of nine members for inter-borough collaboration; the one larger map allows for provisions for all zoning options as required by the PA Municipal Planning Code; "Control development rather than having development control the Boroughs."
- Grant monies are available for inter-municipal coordination
- The Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon Plan is the first to be adopted in PA under new state guidelines

Ben Avon Update- Lloyd Corder

- Currently VP Ben Avon Council, served 12 years
- Encouraging cooperation, green initiative among the North Boroughs communities
- BAAHA Ben Avon Area Historical Association – <http://benavon.com/BAAHA> newsletter included a photo of McKees Rocks Bridge round-about prior to SR65 development
- Tri-Borough Planning provides legal standing to look at other opportunities
- Example -Avon Park- located in Kilbuck Twp- Ben Avon halfway through 100 year lease of the park which includes a playground, tennis court; residents provided input –former state representative David Mayernick instrumental in obtaining funding;
- Russ Hardiman-Kilbuck cooperated in cleaning up the area for the park; CBDG grant \$35K, others including a Women's group were involved
- Jeff Cieslak –Trees valuable resource; surveying trees identifying all types and conditions of the "street trees" defined as trees that overhang the street or sidewalk, or trees that are planted in the strip of grass between the street and the sidewalk (the "tree lawn".) So far 1103 trees surveyed, <http://trees.benavon.org/>
- Economic benefit, homes sold for 20% more, having trees and close proximity to a park

Sustainable Pittsburgh – Matt Mehalik, Program manager

- www.sustainablepittsburgh.org "Sustainable Pittsburgh affects decision-making in the Pittsburgh Region to integrate economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality bringing sustainable solutions to communities and businesses."
- Sustainable community development network - Embracing recommended strategy -partnering with other municipalities, reduce costs
- Business community- paired companies wanting to find better ways for employee commuting
- Environmental -Storm water issues
- Fabric made from bamboo- joined in efforts to assist the business with a source of capital
- Mar 26 sustainable infrastructure, energy growth, wind farms, coal, nuclear, natural gas, panel to speak on green buildings <http://www.c4spgh.org/know.html>
- Consulted with Cranberry Township to create a sustainability plan to follow the strategic plan. Open community meetings to filter through headings which serve as the basis for development; Comprehensive sustainability audit; plan includes Commuting, Traffic signaling, economic development, growth management; www.cranberryplan.org Email cranplan@cranberryplan.org
- Certification programs
- Ordinances to promote sustainability
- Work with various municipalities
- Addressed burying wires- for aesthetic purposes, tree maintenance
- Carnegie Mellon involved in creating sustainable communities; 3 students available to review amenities and challenges and issues of sustainability

Cultural Trust/Arts-Doug Diamond

- Theater major turned IT geek, Systems Administrator for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
- Developed a business plan to create a live learn and grow art center through visual and performing arts
- Art center -staffed by working artists, involving SBA, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, grant writers, looking for real estate, required permits
- Goal -Bring outsiders in to Bellevue to participate; provide art for mentally challenged children

Committee Reports:

Marketing- Steve Eckert

- Actual implementation- of marketing ideas meeting-March 16 at Shepherd's Door- 7pm working on branding, Craig Otto to present, writers, artists, IT persons welcome

Events- Mark Helbling/Heather Sedlacko/Dana Vargo

- Events group open to anyone wanting to participate in planning and volunteering for events - Mar 2 meeting- primary discussion-good communication, how to promote events, activities
- promote on websites, etc., car cruise, Summer Solstice, 5k during Sidewalk sale days

Residential –Heather Sedlacko/Dana Vargo

- involving residents in meet your neighbor night, meet council members,
- e-mail, newsletter, residential packet distributed to new resident
- Neighborhood watch program, Matt Lucas suggested inviting police participation- initial meeting
- Meetings -1st Monday each month at 7pm Suburban Campus 7th floor conference room

Business Development-Kathy Coder

- Recent trip –meeting with a group of psychiatrists - initiated discussion with an individual about integrating the mentally ill into community with art and music (Doug Diamond)
- Jersey city- Hyatt constructed on the water, with boardwalks etc, potential for Bellevue and North Boroughs to take advantage of the waterways
- Bayne park -rendering required to apply for grant funding -introduced Jim Protin from AECOM engineering, (Pittsburgh offices in Gateway Center, the largest engineering firm world-wide) engages in community service activities and provided the rendering to apply for grant monies
- Matt Sentner- progress in the area of safety concerns; tazers approved by Bellevue Council;
- Matt Lucas DARE national and international organization; DARE mentor, DARE America -pilot program for Middle school 7th 8th graders; created professional video presentations in three locations, Oklahoma, Atlanta, and Bellevue; 30 middle school students responded to various scenarios involving peer pressure and conflict resolution. The Doscher family hosted a segment of the video in their home.
- Eli Zlokas, Esquire- Child advocate in Allegheny County; programs for children and opportunities for children are essential; gang symbols are prevalent in the community, concerned for the health and well-being of the youth recommends incorporating a juvenile aspect; church groups, schools groups are encouraged to contact him to present talks about juvenile court.
- The Pediatric sleep lab service is now available at AGH-Suburban Campus; a donation from Mills Mall of indoor play equipment is available for anyone having the space to use it.
- Kathy Coder and Connie Flasher met with school officials; Northgate wants to be involved
- Rich Furis works in long-range planning for Bechtel Corporation; having served on Bellevue Council and a member of the Tri-Borough Commission, recommending convergence, prioritizing objectives; Dwindling resources of individual participants, sharing services is encouraged.