



Community Development Implementation Partners Meeting Summary
February 21st , 2019
Madeline Olewine Memorial Library

Organizers:

Jerry Duke, Dauphin county Planning Coordinator, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, gduke@tcrpc-pa.org

Alexa Korber, Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, akorber@tcrpc-pa.org

Attendees:

Savannah Beeler, GHAR

Karen Cullings, DC Library System

Carl Dickson, DC Parks and Recreation

Geoffrey Knight, City of Harrisburg

Lori Milach, DC Library System

Jerry Leach, Harrisburg Builders Association

Bryan Van Sweden, PA Historical and Museum Commission

Julie Walter, Tri-County Community Action

Review from Previous Meeting

There was a brief review of the Goals and Key Action Items from the Community Development section of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. In previous sessions group members were asked to rank the Action Items to determine where they thought County focus should be. Some of the highest ranked action items are as follows (for a full list please contact Alexa Korber at the email address above):

- Implement the Community Service Area (CSA) concept from the Regional Growth Management Plan by monitoring actual development;

- Through education and model ordinance development, promote the utilization of a variety of techniques to protect environmentally sensitive lands, reduce the impact of future development, and encourage infill redevelopment opportunities;
- Evaluate existing zoning and subdivision regulations for their effect on housing affordability;
- Identify and inventory substandard housing, included blighted structures

What is the County doing?

TCRPC maps planned subdivisions and land developments every year for its **Annual Report**. The potential projects are then analyzed by location to determine where they fall within the Community Service or Planned Growth Areas. An archive of Annual Reports by year can be found here: <https://www.tcrpc-pa.org/publications>

An **affordable housing roundtable** was hosted last November to discuss research directions and partnership opportunities. TCRPC has since been working with CREDC to gather census data pertaining to income and housing within the Dauphin County area. An additional roundtable will be held sometime in 2019. For more information, contact Jerry Duke at the email address above.

On April 25th, TCRPC will be partnering with the Harrisburg Young Professionals, the DC Library System, and The Burg magazine to host an open forum for discussion at the Appalachian Brewing Company. Information on the event can be found here:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg60jitt2f3917d8&llr=njlitifab>

What are partner organizations doing?

City of Harrisburg

Harrisburg City is embarking on their five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Planning efforts around I-83 will become increasingly important as the city must weigh-in on plans for lane widening and interchange improvements. Pedestrian safety is a top issue---the City is currently working on the Vision Zero project with a call of eliminating all deaths from traffic accidents. From a water quality standpoint, they are also part of the effort for the Paxton Creek dechannelization and naturalization project, which was initiated by PennDot. Several large scale building projects are also set to begin, amongst them the new federal courthouse, the State Archives building, and the Harrisburg University Tower Project.

The city has also just hired a new Deputy Planning Director and will be hiring for more staff positions this year.

DC Parks and Recreation

DC Parks and Recreation has been working to complete the Capital Area Greenbelt and make it safer via paving and intersection improvements. They have secured grant money for the Fort

Hunter Connector project and will be working on uniting the two halves of the Lykens Valley Rail Train in the northern part of the County. Planning money has also been awarded to Parks and Recreation to complete a Master Plan for Detweiler Park, for which they are currently seeking public input. Wildwood Park is also being worked on for ways to offset some of the siltation problems. Wildwood is where many public events are hosted, including the yearly Wetlands Festival that will be held on April 27th, 2019.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)

PHMC will soon begin work on a project with Dauphin County to study disaster planning as it relates to historic properties. With the help of a consultant and staff at TCRPC, the Commission will be surveying historic properties that exist within floodplains. PHMC also hopes to incorporate other hazards, including building collapse, in to their survey.

Tri-County Community Action (TCCA)

TCCA is moving forward on the corridor revitalization project in Allison Hill and aims to have 8 storefront façade improvement projects completed by the end of the year. They have partnered with Capital Region Water (CRW) to complete additional streetscape projects, including sidewalk repair, street banners, and banner paintings. TCCA is also piloting a green program for vacant lots and a program for the Central PA Food Bank. They will start focusing on physical health as part of an approach to community development, including planning for a farmers market in Allison Hill by 2020, analyzing life expectancies by Census tract areas, crime hotspot mapping, and looking for funding for a new program to help individuals cope with trauma.

TCCA has recently opened a new satellite office in northern Dauphin County. Their main office is on Derry Street in Harrisburg.

Greater Harrisburg Association of Realtors (GHAR)

GHAR has recently welcomed Savannah Beeler as their new Director of Government Affairs. A grant was recently secured for Cumberland County for an affordable housing study. GHAR is looking to expand their affordable housing research in to the tri-county area, including Dauphin County. The organization is supportive of the Pennsylvania First Time Home Buyers Savings Program, a state program that would allow individuals to put aside tax-exempt money for a down payment on their first home. It is estimated that this program can stimulate up to 4,000 home purchases per year within the state.

DC Library System

The Dauphin County Library System has recently assembled a task force to look in to facility needs in the northern part of the county. Efforts will especially focus on the Elizabethville branch, which is the 3rd highest circulating library in all of Dauphin County. A new strategic plan will be created for the library system as a whole, a large portion of which will be dedicated to

fostering community conversations and partnership. Going forward, the library hopes to brand itself as a community space without a political agenda where people are comfortable meeting to discuss their problems and needs. On June 3rd the Library System will be partnering with Harrisburg University to hold a community conversation on homelessness. They are also planning for MARCO van—an outreach van that goes out in to the community--to create a pop-up libraries.

What are Focus Areas and Next Steps

Affordable Housing

TCRPC will host an additional affordable housing roundtable and continue to gather data that will assist in analyzing housing needs in Dauphin County.

Blighted Housing

The group believes that there is value in pursuing a blighted housing survey in Dauphin County. This is an idea to be explored/discussed further.

Community Development/Connections

Outreach to the community is an important part of pinpointing issues that we might not have been aware of before. One area to explore is educational and workforce support. Another is environmental and recreational issues.

The next meeting of the Community Development Implementation Partners will be in the summer of 2019. If you would like to be added to the email list please contact Alexa Korber at akorber@tcrpc-pa.org or 717-234-2639.