

Carbon County Open Space Advisory Board

Minutes

Inaugural Board Meeting – July 20, 2023

6:30 pm

This inaugural board meeting of the Open Space Advisory Board was called to order at 6:30pm on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 44 Susquehanna Street, Jim Thorpe, PA 1st floor Conference Room.

In Attendance:

Fred Kemmerer, Jr., Ian Farrell, Katherine Cunfer, Sara Holland, David Krause, Danadee Miller-Boyle, Richard Fedor, Gerry Madden.

Absent:

Brent Green

Others in Attendance:

Dennis DeMara, Dan Kunkle, Jeanee Ortiz, Dawn Gorham, Maggie Witmer, Kathy Henderson, Wayne Nothstein, Rocky Ahner, Chris Lukasevich, Michael Sofranko, David Bodnar, Jason Skrimcovsky

Call to Order:

David Bodnar, Director of Planning & Development, acting Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led group in the pledge of allegiance.

Introductions:

David Bodnar introduced County officials, Kathy Henderson and Jim Thorpe Mayor Michale Sofranko. Then handed introductions over to Dennis DeMara and he introduced Open Space Advisors to the Advisory board. Dennis DeMara then handed meeting back over to David Bodnar.

Electing of Officers:

Acting Chairperson, David Bodnar asked for nominations to elect Chairperson for the Open Space Advisory Board, 1st Richard Fedor for Fred Kemmerer, Jr. and 2nd by Danadee Miller-Boyle for Fred Kemmerer, Jr. – All in favor.

Elect Vice-Chairperson:

Chairperson, Fred Kemmerer, Jr. asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson, 1st by Katherine Cunfer for Katherine Cunfer and 2nd by Danadee Miller-Boyle – All in favor.

Elect Secretary:

Chairperson, Fred Kemmerer asked for nominations for Secretary, 1st by Katie Cunfer for Danadee Miller-Boyle and 2nd by Ian Farrell – All in favor.

Guests:

Carbon County Commissioners Wayne Nothstein, Rocky Ahner & Chris Lukasevich, Mayor Jim Thorpe Michael Sofranko, Director Economic Development Kathy Henderson all thanked the Board for their volunteering for this initiative.

Set Meeting Dates:

The Board decided to hold monthly meeting dates and be notified by email, phone call or postcard 10 days in advance. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 44 Susquehanna Street, 1st floor conference room, Jim Thorpe, PA from 6:30 M to 8 :00 PM.

Background on Referendum:

Dennis DeMara and Dan Kunkle gave a background and overview on the referendum passed by the Carbon County Commissioners (No. 23-019).

Develop By-Laws:

Chairperson Fred Kemmerer asked for nominations to adopt the draft by-laws for the Open Space Board, 1st by David Krause and 2nd by Danadee Miller-Boyle – All in favor.

Roles of Open Space Advisory Board Members:

Dennis DeMara and Dan Kunkle explained the roles and expectations of the OSAB members as outlined in Article 5 of the draft by-laws.

Open Space Prioritization Presentation:

Maggie Witmer gave a power point presentation on open space prioritization. She explained to the OSAB members that future power point presentations will be given to OSAB members to learn about the process involved in order to get an open space foundation built for Carbon County.

Further Business and Adjournment:

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM, 1st by Richard Fedor and 2nd by Sara Holland - All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Danadee Miller-Boyle, Secretary