

# MEETING AGENDA FOR CRAFTON BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

August 24, 2021


6:30 PM via Zoom

Crafton Commissioners: Kirsten Compitello (Chairwoman), Richard Kraemer (Secretary), Lydia Herring, Colton Chandler, Eric Valcheff

- I. Call to order (6:33PM)
- II. Roll call (Kirsten, Lydia, Rich, Colton, Valcheff)
- III. Citizen comments
  - a. Greg Wozniak, no comments
- IV. Meeting format: In person vs. Zoom
  - a. Solicitor suggests that we return to in-person
  - b. Kirsten doesn't see a need, Lydia, Valcheff, Rich and Colton didn't see a need for it until there is a need, and Allegheny County COVID seems to be trending in a better direction.
- V. Parks Master Plan status update
  - a. Kick-off meeting last week, Kirsten reports update, we will continue to stay engaged with the progress through Kirsten and Valcheff (reps to the committee)
  - b. Consultant shared the format and project schedule, early feedback around vision etc.
  - c. Not much framing by the consultant as to the scope or the context
  - d. More to come, including community events in the next 6 months
    - i. Feedback was good dialogue and sharing of what individual's vision of what can be done/future could bring
    - ii. It is a fairly large steering committee, monthly meeting
      1. focus groups, 'key person' interviews, various community events being planned for this fall.
      2. Kirsten will upload some of the steering committee artifacts/documents
      3. Design process and recommendation period this fall with a final recommendations report coming for December/January.
      4. Greg Wozniak expressed concern over potential limitations of scope in gathering the proper amount of citizen input by the consultant
      5. Kirsten gives some insight that PC can serve as a conduit to convey and gather community feedback as well.
- VI. Current Initiatives
  - a. Community marketing and promotion: waiting for documents
    - i. Draft Map (bad data) [PREVIEW](#)
  - b. Working version of [Crafton Vision\\_LivingDocument](#)
  - c. Brick streets resource and update: Mount Lebanon's historic preservation board is putting together a policy document that Crafton and Ingram may be able to use as a resource. Through discussions with Ingram, the labor costs to relay brick when required is high, but overall the brick streets last much longer and require less maintenance than asphalt. Potential idea to pool resources between neighboring municipalities if individual communities can't afford skilled labor on staff. Could potentially set something up through the COG. Eric knows of a past contractor that worked for Crafton to fix brick streets and did a good job. Kirsten to prepare resources and send on to borough council with a request to review information and respond to PC whether it is still possible to preserve brick streets that are part of the Crafton Blvd project. Moving forward, beef up this topic in the Vision document and consider issuing our own policy document regarding brick streets (make sure to consider ADA accessibility).
- VII. Parking discussion, per request

- a. Areas where parking is an issue
- b. Possible improvements: Parking lines/delineation, parking zone, etc. What other areas do
- c. Discussion of Planning Commission next steps:
  - i. Ask the boro manager to help PC explore what is possible regarding parking, to inform the PC prior to making any sort of recommendation to council:
    - 1. What is the feasibility of painting parking spots around the mixed use areas such as the busway areas of congestion (e.g., N. Emily)? If it is feasible, do you know of detriments to doing this sort of thing? (ie the size of parking spaces that would be required could lead to fewer parking spaces.)
    - 2. What is the feasibility of painting parking spots on a non-mixed use (ie busway) area such as Union? Are there other ways to help improve parking that you have seen that we might recommend as well to Council?
  - ii. Unanimous motion to encourage Council
    - 1. To pursue multi-modal grant to address busy streets and speeding

VIII. Upcoming workshops

- a. Ecodistrict: Meeting set up with Carnegie to discuss potential collaboration on the Eco-District. Second informational session: schedule after CONNECT and Carnegie discussions and loop back with Ingram. Kirsten to invite CONNECT to September joint PC meeting with Ingram.
- b. Zoning information distribution: October
  - i. Flyer notes doc:  The benefits of updating Crafton and Ingram's zoning ordinances
    - 1. Modernize old code.
    - 2. Align code with community vision.
    - 3. Add transit-oriented zoning districts to promote busway usage, walkability, and reduce automobile dependence and congestion.
    - 4. Revisit parking minimums so that new developments are not required to build more parking than they need (e.g., Crafton-Ingram Shopping Center). Builders can be led by the market and not required to over build parking.
    - 5. Encourage desirable development that benefits our citizens and local economy. Conventional zoning practice of the past several decades has separated residential, retail, and office uses. Today, however, this zoning stands in the way of communities that want to create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods that mix these uses and give residents the option to walk to the store, walk to work, or own a home business.
    - 6. Make the zoning codes clearer so that potential developers can easily understand and follow the rules.
    - 7. Incorporate design guidelines, which are a set of standards that aim to maintain a certain level of quality and architectural or historic character, addressing features such as building facades, public spaces, and landscaping.
  - ii. For next month we all need to go in and 'jazz up' each in the google doc, images content ideas etc..

IX. Review of June and July minutes both approved

X. Citizen Comments

- a. Website update (date and times, meeting agendas etc, <https://www.craftonborough.com/planning-zoning>)

XI. Adjourn 8:40PM