

Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Meeting #2 - September 15, 2022
New Kensington City Hall

Attendees (*D-Delegate, A-Alternate*)

AK IGC: George Hawdon (D-Arnold), Mark Saxon (Arnold Redevelopment Authority), Melissa Cortileso (D-Upper Burrell), Tom Guzzo (D-New Kensington), Barbara Sharp (D-East Vandergrift), Marilee Kessler (A-Vandergrift), Daisha Clayton (Vandergrift Borough), Matt Grantz (D-West Leechburg), Ren Steele (D-Allegheny Township)

Westmoreland County Planning: Victoria Baur

Public: None

Meeting started at 5:05 PM.

Review/approve minutes from Meeting 1:

A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Missy to approve the Meeting 1 minutes. The Meeting 1 minutes were approved.

Guest speaker returns, Jake Lydick, Eye-bot Aerial Solutions:

Jake was unable to make the meeting, due to a conflict. Members agreed Jake would be asked to attend a different meeting to show drone demonstration data and discuss short-term, community-based projects and next steps.

Members briefly discussed short-term community-based projects including capturing footage of the Tredway Trail, tree health inventory, and repository property inspections, as quick wins for the IGC. Victoria shared that drone services will not be pursued for the Alle-Kiski blight inventory project, as it was determined to not be cost effective for the County or eye-bot for this application. Members agreed that an intergovernmental cooperation agreement may be pursued between interested communities and eye-bot to conduct short-term projects, and that this will likely not be funneled through the County.

AK IGC Bylaws:

Victoria noted that amending the AK IGC Bylaws was suggested by members at the last meeting. She asked for any suggestions and summarized that additional language could be added to the financial section and that the dates of operation could be adjusted to reflect the current operation. Members agreed that these amendments could be easily accomplished. Victoria noted that she would ask members for additional suggestions via email and would draft amended bylaws for review in time for the October meeting.

AK IGC project management tracker:

Victoria asked for feedback on the AK IGC project management tracker. The group discussed the tracker and agreed it would be useful to help keep projects moving and to communicate progress to other local government officials. Victoria noted that the tracker would be officially published on the ReimaginingOurWestmoreland.org site after the meeting and be updated monthly.

AK IGC chat application

Victoria noted that it was suggested at the last meeting that members use a chat application to communicate in between meetings. She asked for suggestions on platforms and shared that the Planning Division could create an AK IGC group on the application, Slack.

Slack is a collaboration platform that can be accessed via a web browser, desktop application, or on a smart phone. Members discussed the benefits of using a chat application and agreed it would be useful to communicate about projects and activities in between meetings. Victoria noted that she would create the Slack workspace and share instructions to members to create logins soon.

Shared code enforcement:

Tom suggested that each community invite their code enforcement officers (CEOs) to the October meeting to discuss shared code enforcement options, as they are the most familiar with their current workloads and different types of codes. Members agreed that inviting their CEOs to the October meeting would be beneficial. Victoria noted that she would remind members. George suggested that the AK IGC look at models of other places that follow a county-based code enforcement program to pursue this.

Victoria reminded the group that Brian Lawrence, with the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland County (RACW), will be speaking at the October 20th meeting about the RACW's digital code enforcement software along with regional code enforcement solutions. She also reminded members that Amanda Settelmaier with the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments would be speaking at the November 17th meeting on regional code enforcement.

Next AK IGC meeting date: Thursday, October 20th, 2022 @ 5 PM - Discuss agenda items for upcoming meeting:

Tom reminded the group to send agenda items along for the next meeting.

Public comment:

None.

Other discussion:

Victoria noted that the Planning Division is nearly ready to share a draft proposal for the AK IGC blight inventory project soon and that this will include all eight communities. She added that the proposal may be shared ahead of the October meeting for review and feedback.

Victoria reminded members that signed, dated, and attested Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Cooperation agreements are to be returned, along with the second year dues, to the Westmoreland Planning Division office by Monday, October 3rd.

Victoria shared a flyer and information regarding the RACW's Autumn Blight Remediation Event on Friday, October 14th at the Westmoreland County Community College Youngwood Event Center. The focus of the event will be to discuss blight plans and remediation efforts.

Victoria shared a flyer with information on the Westmoreland Broadband effort, encouraging all of Westmoreland County to take an internet survey which will help determine where broadband investments are made throughout the County. She noted that the survey will remain open until October 31st.

Ren noted that the Alle-Kiski communities need to continue making progress on land acquisition to add connections to the existing trail infrastructure in the region.

Tom shared an update that the City of New Kensington has been in discussions with the company, Re:Build Manufacturing, about the Schreiber Industrial site in New Kensington and Arnold. The company, which has the potential to bring more than 500 well paying-skilled jobs to the region, is deciding between the Alle-Kiski location and Cleveland, Ohio.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by George and seconded by Barbara to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 5:50 PM.