

**NJCPA Regular Meeting  
Thompson Park Visitors Center, Beech Room  
Lincroft, NJ  
March 15, 2019**

**Member Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Frances Brown	Atlantic	Mark Siegle	Ocean
Ranae Fehr	Atlantic	Vicki Pecchioli	Ocean
Francesca Giarratana	Hudson	Michael Lysicatos	Passaic
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon	Walter Lane	Somerset
Christine Marion	Morris	Kamal Saleh	Union
George Ververides	Middlesex		

**Other Agencies/Guests:**

David Hojsak	FEMA R2
Allen Weston	NJAC
Doug Greenfeld	NJTPA
Melanie Willoughby	NJBAC
Barry Ableman	NJOPA

**1. Welcome & Introduction:**

NJ County Planners Association President Michael Lysicatos called the meeting to order at 11:12am and welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by attendee introductions.

**2. Business**

- A. Executive Committee Report** - President Lysicatos asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none. President Lysicatos reported that he attended a Redevelopment Forum the previous week and gave a presentation on Smart Cities. Treasurer Walter Lane also attended and participated in a panel on the State Plan.
- a. Subcommittee Assignments - President Lysicatos has received no communications from anyone interested in serving on the subcommittees. He would like to get them finalized and asked for volunteers.
  - b. NJAC Conference Preparation – President Lysicatos discussed having Freeholders talk about how planning has helped to further goals within their counties. He requested that meeting attendees consider possible participants from their counties.
  - c. NJCPA Salary Survey – Following up on a prior effort, a survey will be distributed to NJCPA members.
- B. Meeting Minutes** – Draft minutes from the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed for review. One revision was requested, to properly acknowledge Tony Soriano for his efforts in helping to

draft NJCPA's letter in response to Assembly Bill 2005. A motion was made by George Ververides to approve the minutes with the revision, seconded by Christine Marion. Minutes were approved with the revision.

**C. Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Walter Lane reported he did not have a formal report since he was having some issues accessing the bank account online. He hopes to have the issue resolved shortly. Mr. Lane stated the 2019 invoices for dues would be sent out sometime during the next two weeks. He reported that a formal Treasurers Report would be ready for the next meeting.

**3. Presentation:** Melanie Willoughby, Acting Executive Director of the NJ Business Action Center and Barry Ableman, Office of Planning Advocacy. Ms. Willoughby provided an update on current planning activities at the state level. Legislation has been proposed to extend existing center designations to June 2020. Comments on the proposal are due May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Outreach to the 98 existing centers is the office's first priority right now, with particular emphasis on those within CAFRA.

Mr. Ableman reiterated that they are reaching out to existing Centers regarding the proposed extension. There are many they have not yet heard from. Mr. Ableman provided a handout to CPA members outlining programs available through various state offices (attached).

The group discussed the State Plan. Ms. Willoughby discussed how the Governor's Economic Plan will tie into the State Plan, describing the State Plan as the foundation with the Governor's Economic Plan as an overlay. A discussion involving the State Plan resulted in a number of questions and comments from CPA members. Areas discussed included: What the County Planners' role will and should be in the process to update the State Plan; coordination among all state agencies and departments; need for vertical and horizontal communication; concerns about a top down approach if the Governor's Economic Plan is complete yet we are still working with an outdated State Plan; importance of working with and coordination among different organizations such as League of Municipalities, NJCPA, NJAC, MPOs, TPAs, etc.; County level staffing resources needed to undertake a process to update the Plan; the need to address regulations and burdensome processes that serve as roadblocks to projects; the relationship between the State Plan and the Fair Housing Act; how can the State Plan help to market the State of NJ.

President Lysicatos thanked Ms. Willoughby and Mr. Ableman for their attendance and dialogue on this important issue.

#### **4. County Project of the Month**

None presented. President Lysicatos requested ideas for County projects that could be highlighted in future meetings. Francesca Giarratana mentioned Hudson County's new Census 2020 webpage developed by their GIS office. George Ververides mentioned Middlesex County's Destination 2040 Plan, which is currently underway and could be a potential future presentation.

## **5. Resolutions**

No resolutions. President Lysicatos asked the group if the Association would like to send a letter in support of the proposal to extend Center designations. Motion to send a letter of support made by George Ververides, seconded by Kamal Saleh. Motion carried.

## **6. Committee Updates and Announcements**

No committee updates. George Ververides mentioned a meeting to be held March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Gateway project. Christine Marion asked if there are any updates to the proposed stormwater utility legislation. Ms. Willoughby said that she has not heard anything.

The next meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Thompson Park Visitors Center.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:04PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ranae L. Fehr, PP/AICP, 4-26-2019