

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
May 2, 2024

The SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on May 2, 2024 by Board President, Tammy Firda.

Those Present Included

Braddock Hills: Tom Evans / Jack Brown
Clairton: Eric Hatchett
Dravosburg:
Duquesne:
Elizabeth
Forward: Amy Cline
Glassport: Anthony Colecchi / Elaina Skiba
Homestead: Duane Schulte
Liberty: Mike Zrenchak

Lincoln: Tammy Firda
McKeesport:
Munhall:
Port Vue: Debbie Thomas
S. Versailles: Roy Lawson
Versailles: Jim Sheedy / Linda Sheedy
W. Elizabeth: Cathy Welty / Janet Isaacs
W. Homestead:
Whitaker:
White Oak:

Welcoming Remarks

Personnel

A. Lewis informed the Board that two new employees were hired to Steel Rivers COG staff. Jenny Kwiatek has filled the position of Government Grants Coordinator. Penny Donaldson has filled the position of Office Coordinator.

Public Comments

None

Guest Speakers

None

Minutes

A **motion** was made by A. Cline and seconded by E. Hatchett to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 7, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by E. Hatchett to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 28, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: An Lewis

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by E. Hatchett to approve the Cash Statement for March 2024 and the List of Bills as dated. All in favor. Motion carried.

A Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report was provided to members. RAD reports not available at this time.

President's Report: Tammy Firda

Nothing to report at this time. T. Firda introduced County Councilman, Bob Macey.

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
May 2, 2024

Solicitor's Report: Falco Muscante
Nothing to report at this time.

Director's Report: An Lewis
Employees' Pension Plan

A **motion** was made by T. Evans and seconded by D. Thomas to retain Dunbar, Bender & Zapf, Inc. for the Employees' Pension Plan and Trust Services in the amount of \$800.00 per year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Maintenance Services

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by D. Schulte to approve Resolution #7/2024R authorizing Tammy Firda to enter in an agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation through June 30, 2029 for Comprehensive Maintenance Services (Street Sweeping). All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by E. Hatchett to authorize An Lewis to sign the Worker Protection and Investment Certification Form required by the Comprehensive Maintenance Services agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regarding charging stations for the street sweeper, the cost for us is estimated to be about \$20,000. Remaining cost estimated to be covered by Duquesne Light. These stations will be located at the HSC in Homestead.

A **motion** was made by E. Hatchett and seconded by A. Colecchi to authorize Tammy Firda and An Lewis to enter agreement with Duquesne Light for installation of (2) EV Charging Stations to support the new electric street sweeper, pending review by the solicitor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Community and Economic Development Program

A. Lewis stated that Lauren Connelly will be new Director of Economic Development.

A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by T. Evans to authorize An Lewis to apply for foundation funding to support this program. All in favor. Motion carried.

U.S. Steel

A. Lewis announced that a letter to U.S. Steel will require everyone to come together. A DocuSign account has been created to initiate the emails for the required signatures once the letter has been drafted. Our intention is to send the letter to the main municipal contact, unless we are notified that it should go to someone else. The letter will be sent early next week.

Personnel

A. Lewis informed the Board that three new employees were hired to CURE Mon Valley staff. Their first day is scheduled for May 14, 2024.

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
May 2, 2024

Regional Training Complex

E. Hatchett asked for update on the status of the Gun Range property. A. Lewis advised that the lease goes through next year and we can revisit closer to then.

Multi-Community Gas/Fume Complaints

B. Macey discussed reports of a natural gas odor in several areas. He informed the board that a round table discussion was held to try and find out what is causing this. A natural gas additive could be the culprit, but he and others are still working on finding the source and resolving the issue.

Community Development Report: J. Kwiatek

A CD Report of all current projects was provided to members.

An E-mail was sent to council today regarding CD 51. The Blight Removal Program is the biggest movement at this point. The White Oak HVAC project has been completed.

Homestead Riverfront Trail – Pedestrian tripped and fell. SRCOG has been named in a lawsuit seeking damages. A. Lewis and J. Kwiatek had a recent call with the pedestrian’s attorney and they expressed that SRCOG has no responsibility or liability due to us not having any involvement in that space in over five years.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on June 6, 2024 at SRCOG.

Meeting Date	Location
June 6, 2024	SRCOG
September 5, 2024	GLASSPORT BOROUGH
October 3, 2024	TBD
November 7, 2024	TBD
December 5, 2024	TBD

Community Reports/Discussion

D. Schulte discussed Police Testing – Only 1 applicant showed, but test was cancelled. How can they increase the applicants for the testing?

T. Firda commented that standards should be upheld, not lowered, and professionalism should be applied at all times. Officers are to be clean-shaven and tattoos should be covered.

D. Schulte stated that theft is a big issue in the community and retail establishments in the area are suffering. Walgreens on 8th Ave closed down last month (April) because of retail theft.

D. Schulte expressed concerns that sewage issue underground will cause shut-downs and borough issues. Part of the problem is that one side of the street is owned by Homestead and the other side is

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
May 2, 2024

owned by Munhall. He asked if SRCOG can help with funding. A. Lewis will meet with Jenny to find out if we can get any info or resources to look into this issue.


A. Cline announced that the first concert at Sunnyside Park will be June 8, 2024.

E. Skiba announced that the "treehouse" across from the municipal building will be coming down.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm on a **motion** made by A. Colecchi and seconded by C. Welty. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Penny Donaldson


An Lewis, Executive Director