

## Economic Development Committee Minutes

July 7, 2015

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Chairman Doug Callantine, Jim Marshall, Jack Loew, Bruce Goodman, Richard Gaglianese, Charles Kahn Jr., Wendy Klinghoffer, Randee Elton, Bill Meyerowitz, and Tara Wehmeyer.

**In Attendance:** Commissioner John Spiegelman, Commissioner Larry Jones, Larry Matteo

**Excused:** Michael Markman, Karen Wiley Sandler, Judith Kratka, Christopher Lionetti, Peter Brandow, Mike McPaul

**Not In Attendance:** Dave Mulvey, Barbara Nye

**Note:** The EDC is strictly an advisory committee and takes no action on township matters required under state legislation. EDC meetings are essentially a workshop environment for ED policies, programs, or projects which develop over a considerable length of time. When finalized, programs and projects are presented for public discussion to the Commissioners under the Public Affairs agenda. As such, minutes are summary in nature and not verbatim.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 1: Welcome**

Chairman Doug Callantine opened the meeting by welcoming the committee and Commissioners in attendance. Doug introduced Bill Meyerowitz, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Abington Art Center. Bill advised the EDC that he plans to attend the monthly meetings until there is a sustainable model in place for the AAC. Currently, Debbie Yoder is the interim Executive Director as AAC seeks to find a permanent Executive Director. He spoke about the partnership that AAC has with Penn State Abington with the maker space, incubator concept. The EDC is enthusiastic about maintaining the partnership with AAC.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 2: Penn State Housing**

An overview of the Penn State Housing project was discussed since the 'economic impact study' was presented to the EDC on the evening of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board of Commissioners approved the proposed ordinance at a special meeting held on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Larry Matteo informed the group that the land development process will be the next step for the project. There will be neighborhood meetings and meetings with Rydal Park and other neighboring commercial businesses regarding the land development. Final approval of the entire project will then go to the Board of Commissioners.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 3: Montgomery County Planning Commission Walkability Audit**

Abington Township was a grant recipient chosen by Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) as a focus area for a transit oriented development audit for MCPC's new Walk Montco project. The audit took place on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The group initially met at Curds and Whey for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. The audit itself involved splitting into two groups. One group walked around the Noble station area, along The Fairway and north on Old York Rd. The second group also walked the Noble station area and south on Old York Road into Jenkintown. The two groups gathered back at Curds and Whey to discuss their walks and to address some of the areas that might have impediments to walking and a need for improvement.

An interactive map welcoming comments and feedback is available online at:

[wikimapping.net/wikimap/walkmontco.html](http://wikimapping.net/wikimap/walkmontco.html)

MCPC will submit a report in September 2015.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 4: Old York Rd / Susquehanna Rd**

The Multimodal grant submission will support the vision of the Old York Road / Susquehanna Road project which will address the alignment of the intersection, enhance traffic flow, and have better access in turning onto Old York Road. In order to successfully do so, the project involves acquiring the following properties: 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106 Old York Road and 1907 Susquehanna Road. After acquisition, the Township will pursue demolishing the structures of these properties so as to facilitate road widening on Susquehanna Road, allowing alignment of the intersection, creation of a left-turn arrow on Susquehanna Road to northbound Old York Road, improving turning movements at the corner, and providing better access to the surrounding businesses. The project will support re-development of the major intersection in the township, allow for pedestrians to feel safe crossing the street or waiting for the bus as they walk, ride a bike, or even push a stroller.

The grant was submitted on July 31, 2015 and successful grant recipients will be notified on November 10, 2015.

## **Agenda Item EDC - 5: Business Resource Guide**

An EDC subcommittee was formed to update the Business Resource Guide. The goal is to have the information updated and to have new guides printed by year end.

## **Agenda Item EDC - 6: Old Business**

- a. Roslyn Valley Business Association (RVBA) - Leadership roles were voted on and monthly meetings continue with great positive motivation. RVBA would like to have holiday lights in the trees along Easton Rd in the area of the Roslyn Valley Shopping Center. This will be a phased approach as more funds are raised to purchase additional lights in future years. RVBA will set up a vendor table at the Roslyn Valley Car Show & Fall Festival to help gain members and spread the word of the association.
- b. A list of potential presenters for upcoming EDC meetings was created. The idea was designed to find out what the future plans are for the presenter/business, what their thoughts and ideas are moving forward, how we, as the EDC, can cooperate the vision into our future plans. The list, subject to additions and not limited to, is:
  1. Willow Grove Park Mall - PREIT
  2. Rydal Park
  3. Abington Shopping Center
  4. Abington School District
  5. Baederwood Shopping Center
  6. Developer's Diversified
  7. Standard Press Steel (SPS)
  8. SPS
  9. YMCA
  10. Penn State
  11. Jim Scully
  12. Abington Hospital
  13. Franklin Residential - Steven Balin
  14. Abington Art Center

c. Vacancy Ordinance: was approved at the July Board of Commissioners regular monthly meeting.

**Agenda Item EDC - 8: New Business**

a. EDC Community Program: EDC funds to assist businesses and community programs for Economic Development Revitalization.

**Next EDC Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 7:30AM**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Tara Wehmeyer, Assistant Township Manager/Economic Development Director**