

## Economic Development Committee Minutes

May 3, 2016

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Chairman Doug Callantine, Jim Marshall, Bruce Goodman, Dave Mulvey, Karen Wiley Sandler, Judith Kratka, Richard Gaglianese, Christopher Lionetti, Mike McPaul, Bill Meyerowitz, Randee Elton, Matt Vahey, Erin Vizza, Liz Smith, Wendy Klinghoffer, Kent Baird, Commissioner Michael Markman, and Tara Wehmeyer.

**In Attendance:** Commissioner John Spiegelman, Commissioner Sanchez, Larry Matteo, Cakky Evans

**Excused:** Charles Kahn, Jr.

**Not In Attendance:** Jack Loew, 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 everyone in attendance.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 2: Economic Development Partnership with Penn State**

May 18<sup>th</sup> at noon will be the ground breaking ceremony for the Student Housing.

Penn State Abington received one of 6 seed grant awards from INVENT Penn State to support the innovation incubator pilot program to start initially at Abington Art Center with the hope to transition to some corridor space or to the college in the future.

There are two upcoming events at the Innovation Lab:

#### 1. Monday June 6 • 6-8pm

A first in a series of provocative discussions about innovation, business, art and design. A discussion with two leaders who are shaping research, public policy and entrepreneurs of the future.

Moderator: Dr. James Delattre, Assistant Vice President for Research and Industrial Partnerships, Penn State

2. Sunday, May 22, 11am - 3pm

Maker Mayhem at Abington Art Center

Visit: <http://www.fabington.org> for more information.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 3: New Businesses in Abington Township**

Larry Matteo reported on several businesses who have expressed interest in opening in Abington Township. Dino's Backstage in Keswick Village is scheduled to open in June. Lilly of the Valley Cupcakery, also located in Keswick Village has opened and remains successful with their homemade gourmet cupcakes.

Larry and Commissioner Spiegelman also reported on the new Vacancy Review Board which meets the first Thursday of the month.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 4: Baederwood Shopping Center**

The EDC welcomed Fred Younkin, Vice President CBRE | FAMECO | Retail Services. Mr. Younkin represents the shops at Baederwood and works to backfill any vacancies with the first floor leasing. Whole Foods Market is the major anchor at this shopping center. Other top businesses include Moe's, Fusion Sushi, Wink Eye Glasses, and Planet Fitness. Currently the former PNC bank building is vacant.

Mr. Younkin stressed that the key data points that restaurants are looking for are rent and the need to pull someone off of Old York Road onto The Fairway to get to BSC.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 5: New Business**

a. Abington Town Hall - Weds. May 25th

- Hosted by Rydal Meadowbrook Civic Association

Presentations:

Penn State Abington/Abington Arts Center  
Abington Jefferson Health  
Abington School District

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

- a. Doug Callantine presented an EDC General Report to Public Affairs Committee on 4/6/16
- b. YMCA Update - the YMCA currently has a memo of agreement with a property in Upper Moreland Township. It will likely be at least 3 years until the Abington site becomes vacated.
- c. EDC / Abington Township Planning Collaboration: The EDC and the Abington Township Planning Commission plan to collaborate and work more closely on projects and concepts moving forward.
- d. Old York Rd / Susquehanna Rd Project: A Multimodal grant was submitted to DCED and also to PennDOT for Phase 1 of the Old York Rd/Susquehanna Rd project. The grant award announcements have been put on hold until the state finalizes its budget.

**Agenda Item EDC - 7: Schedule Presenters for upcoming EDC meetings:**

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. Jay Blumenthal, Abington Treasurer - July 12<sup>th</sup> EDC meeting
2. Standard Press Steel (SPS) - Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> EDC meeting
3. Developer's Diversified
4. YMCA
5. Penn State
6. Jim Scully
7. Abington Jefferson Health
8. Franklin Residential - Steven Balin

9. Abington Art Center
- ~~10. Baederwood Shopping Center - May 3 EDC meeting~~
- ~~11. Abington School District - Feb. 2 EDC meeting~~
- ~~12. Abington Shopping Center - Sept. EDC meeting~~
- ~~13. Rydal Park - Nov. EDC meeting~~
- ~~14. Willow Grove Park Mall - PREIT - Jan. EDC meeting~~

**The next EDC Meeting will be held at the**

**ABINGTON ART CENTER**

**515 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

**JENKINTOWN, PA**

**Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:30AM**

Respectfully Submitted:  
Tara Wehmeyer  
Assistant Township Manager/Economic Development Director