

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**January 16, 2017**

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on January 16, 2017, in the Board Room in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following members of the ECDC were present: Jen Lyons, Chairperson; Alanna Strohecker, Vice-Chairperson; Scott Sibley; Joe Brophy; Dan Yarnall; Kyle Brown Staff Liaison; Erica Spott, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Liz Smith, SEPTA.

**COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

Chairperson – A motion was made to nominate Jen Lyons as Chairperson. Ms. Lyons accepted the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

Vice Chairperson – A motion was made to nominate Alanna Strohecker as Vice Chairperson. Ms. Strohecker accepted the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

Secretary – A motion was made to nominate Scott Sibley as Secretary. Mr. Sibley accepted the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

The ECDC members voted to hold all meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7pm.

**DISCUSSION WITH LIZ SMITH**

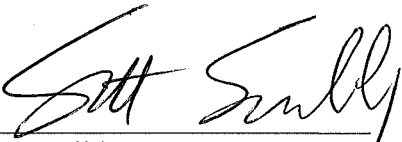
Ms. Smith from SEPTA explained that the King of Prussia area is not currently served by rail, but there are 5,600 bus riders daily. Bus rides from Philadelphia take 1-2 hours due to roadway congestion. SEPTA would like to have regional rail service in the King of Prussia area by 2023 with an elevated route along PECO and PA Turnpike right of ways, behind the mall, to First Avenue. Funding for this project will be at no cost to taxpayers in Upper Merion Township, but will come from Federal Transportation Administration grants, and public/private partnerships. Ms. Smith mentioned several key points including; King of Prussia rail will promote regional growth and attract businesses to the area, the rail line will connect people with opportunities by providing an alternative to congested roadways, it will increase commercial and some residential property value, and it responds to the needs of several groups in Upper Merion Township such as the elderly, the disabled, etc. The proposed rail line will also reduce fifteen million vehicle miles traveled.

Ms. Smith explained that several public meetings have been held and that multiple resident groups have been formed. The environmental impact study will be released sometime in late spring 2017, and will be followed by public hearings. The

ECDC members asked questions in reference to funding and property values, and offered input in reference to the marketing of this project to Upper Merion Township residents.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.



---

Scott Sibley, Secretary

Sms

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: