

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2011

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on January 17, 2011 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: Lydia Dan-Sardinas, Chairperson; Scott Sibley, Vice-Chairperson; Michelle Gallagher, Secretary; Carole Kenney; Scott Greenly, Staff Liaison; and Greg Waks, Board of Supervisors Liaison.

REORGANIZATION:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas turned the meeting over to Mr. Greenly. The committee voted unanimously to reelect Lydia Dan-Sardinas as Chairperson, Scott Sibley as Vice-Chairperson, and Michelle Gallagher as Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 11/20/10. All were in favor

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas read a resignation from committee member Bruce Mitchell. She announced that the ECDC now has a vacant position and two interviews will be conducted shortly. It was also suggested that this vacancy be posted on the township website for a set period of time to find further interest before the position is filled.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community/Cultural Center Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas reported that a presentation made by Ballard and King Associates was held concerning the feasibility of a township Community Center. The public was invited to provide input on potential locations, cost effectiveness, fundraising, functions of the community center, as well as how to reach out to residents of other municipalities. The most favored site for the center, as determined by Ballard and King Associates, seemed to be Heuser Park because of the size as well as the traffic impact.

Business Improvement Districts:

Mr. Sibley reported that the BID established a budget and has hired an executive director. The committee members along with the director are in the planning process to begin projects such as landscaping, signs, marketing etc.

Business Privilege Tax:

Mr. Sibley reported that the BID is going to use their own funds in hiring a consultant to create a comparison of the tax burdens for businesses in Upper Merion Township, with those in other townships in Pennsylvania. Mr. Sibley will keep the committee update of the progress and results of the study.

Tri-Centennial Subcommittee:

Ms. Gallagher reported that the Tricentennial Subcommittee has become a separate entity from the ECDC. This will allow the committee to focus on all of its projects, both future and

current. Ms. Gallagher will be leading the committee and is in the process of gaining public interest by having a web page as well as a facebook account.

Moore-Irwin House Subcommittee:

Mr. Sibley reported that the memo of understanding between the King of Prussia Players and the Board of Supervisors was changed to create a five year time limit for the Players to be able to lease the property. More discussion on this topic is expected in future Board of Supervisor meetings.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

ECDC Website Content:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas requested that the ECDC members look over the content on the committee's page to offer input on the reorganization and updating of the ECDC section of the township's website.

Potential Projects:

The committee discussed a number of potential new projects including: the 422 toll road project and promoting communication between the township and the business community. It was decided that the ECDC needed more information concerning both of these projects and that the BID should be the liaison with the business district. Scott Greenly was to look into getting speakers to discuss the Rte 422 toll as well as having the new BID executive chairperson, Eric Goldstein speak to ECDC. Other projects include promoting Alternative Energy projects, increasing communication with township businesses and residents and branding Upper Merion as an Innovation City, rather than an Edge City. Some of these projects could be developed with other citizen boards. The list will be discussed at the May joint Board of Supervisors meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas mentioned that in the ECDC packet are the listed meetings for 2011, she also commented that there was some confusion concerning holding meetings that aren't regularly scheduled. The committee decided to post a meeting every month and cancel meetings that are not necessary.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Smb
Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered:

Michelle Gallagher, Secretary