

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2010

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on October 18, 2010, 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 Vice-Chairperson; Michelle Gallagher, Secretary; Scott Sibley; Carole Kenney; Bruce Mitchell; Russ Swisher; Joe Budash; Scott Greenly, Staff Liaison; David Mrochko, Public Information Officer; and Greg Waks, Board of Supervisors Liaison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 6/21/10 with minor corrections. All were in favor.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas the Vice Chairman of the ECDC read a resignation letter from Sharyn Clauson from the ECDC as well as the Tri-Centennial and Moore Irwin House Subcommittees. She also conducted an introduction for new members as well as nominations for reorganization. Ms. Dan-Sardinas took the position as new Chairperson, and Mr. Sibley as Vice Chair.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Moore-Irwin House Subcommittee:

Mr. Sibley reported that the King of Prussia Players are still interested in the Moore Irwin House property, and representation for both the Players and the township have met and have not made any significant comments. Once an agreement is reached between the two the King of Prussia Players will need to generate the funds for the preservation of the Moore-Irwin House as well as building their new theatre.

Community/Cultural Center Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas reported on the Joint Subcommittee meeting. Ballard King looked into this project for the subcommittee and came up with a presentation highlighting three possible locations; the Gulph School property, Heuser Park, and the Gold's Gym property, as well as financing and planning information to build the center.

Township Website Subcommittee:

Ms. Gallagher spoke to the Upper Merion Township IT Department director, who commented there are many positive reports, and that the township staff is currently training on adding things to the calendar etc. Ms. Dan-Sardinas explained that the ECDC's involvement in this project is coming to an end.

Business Improvement Districts:

Mr. Sibley reported that the Business Improvement Districts have become official and had their first meeting. Ron Wagenmann is the representative for Upper Merion Township and will be asking the Board of Supervisors to use Mr. Sibley as an alternate representative.

Tri-Centennial Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas explained that she and Ms. Clauson have resigned from this committee. Upon speaking to Ms. Gallagher they have decided to make the Tri-Centennial committee a separate entity such as the Moore Irwin Task Force; however the Board of Supervisors must approve a recommendation from the ECDC to allow such a separation.

Business Privilege Tax:

Mr. Sibley explained that some real estate brokers feel that the tax rate in Upper Merion Township is already too high for commercial industries. The committee also exchanged ideas about creating a brochure to explain the benefits to businesses in the township.

Farmers Market:

Ms. Kenney explained that the farmer's market e-newsletter is popular among vendors and extended the opportunity for ECDC members to get on the mailing list. She also commented that some residents thought the prices of the farmers market were high, but there are several repeat customers as well as entertainment each week. The closing day for the farmers market for the season will be November 20th.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**New Projects for 2011:**

Ms. Dan-Sardinas asked the ECDC members to review the Vision 2020 plan and decide which projects they would like to see the committee work on. Mr. Waks explained that in the past the ECDC consulted experts for projects on the Vision 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michelle Gallagher, Secretary

Smb

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: