

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 19, 2012

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on March 19, 2012, 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; Robin Ross; Sheryl Smith; Russ Swisher; Thomas Kohler; Carole Kenney, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Scott Greenly, Staff Liaison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 2/22/12. All were in favor.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:

Chairperson Dan-Sardinas welcomed Sheryl Smith and Robin Ross to the ECDC. She also explained that the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors was changed to May 10th, 2012 at 8:30pm. Mr. Kohler will be speaking about the new resident package, Mr. Swisher will be speaking about the township website improvements, Ms. Gallagher will be speaking about the community center, and Mr. Sibley will be speaking about the Moore-Irwin House.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Center Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas reported that no additional information has been obtained in reference to the previous Gold's Gym property and explained that there are still businesses operating in the building.

Environmental Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas reported that the next joint environmental presentation with the EAC will be held on April 9th. The topic of the presentation is renewable energy, and the committees plan on hosting a representative from a local green business, as well as a homeowner that uses geothermal energy. The EAC is also looking for a representative from the state to speak about energy credits for homeowners.

Business Improvement District/Business Privilege Tax Subcommittee:

Mr. Sibley explained that there was nothing new to report since the last ECDC meeting. Mr. Greenly mentioned that he would be traveling to see how the city of Tyson's Corner, Virginia extended their rail system to their mall facility.

Moore-Irwin House Subcommittee:

Mr. Sibley asked on the status of possibly using funds from the recent township bond-issue to assist in the Moore-Irwin project. Ms. Kenney stated that they are still in the process of deciding how to use any additional funds and suggested the King of Prussia Players seek money from the Powell Foundation and other grant opportunities to assist in the project. The Powell Foundation has funded several organizations within the township and it was suggested that the King of Prussia Players submit their own request to the foundation. Mr. Sibley stated they haven't started their fundraising efforts as of yet, but will explore all options available.

Tricentennial Subcommittee:

Ms. Gallagher mentioned that the tricentennial subcommittee is always accepting new volunteers. She explained that the UM-opoly game, the gala, the history book, as well as the cookbook projects are all underway, and that the tricentennial will be the theme of the Senior Fall Fling.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**New Resident Welcome Package:**

Mr. Kohler offered to lead this project with the help of Ms. Ross. The welcome package will include a map of the township, a magnet, and a list of contacts.

Communications:

Mr. Swisher distributed the latest list of website enhancements that will be presented at the next Media Communications Advisory Board meeting. The ECDC members also asked to have the meeting minutes and agendas linked to their meeting dates on the township calendar.

Township Development Update:

Mr. Greenly reported that the Wawa/Chick Fil A development is still trying to resolve transportation and parking issues and that they will be submitting phase three plans. Target is also working on transportation issues. Mr. Greenly also explained that the Valley Forge Casino will open at the end of March, and that Wegman's will be opening in May.

Board of Supervisors Update:

Ms. Kenney reported that the Board of Supervisors sent out a request for proposals for the previous Gold's Gym property and have been in communication with the Senior Center. Ms. Kenny also reported that a screening committee was formed to replace the current township manager and the Board plans on naming a replacement by July.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michelle Gallagher, Secretary

Smb

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: