

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 18, 2013

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on February 18, 2013, in the Board Room in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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; Tom Kohler; Russ Swisher; Carole Kenney, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Scott Greenly, Staff Liaison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 1/21/13. All were in favor.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Dan-Sardinas started a conversation about ideas for ECDC projects in 2013. The committee discussed a township wide events calendar, consulting with the Board of Supervisors on the exact mission of the committee, meeting with Dave Kraynik after the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors, and continuing with an environmental plan. They discussed an environmental sustainability study done in Cheltenham Township, stormwater best management practices, hosting town hall type meetings to better interact with the public, having more events such as the tricentennial gala to try and bring the community together, creating a Facebook page, and updating the Vision 2020 Plan.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Center Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas reported that there was a workshop meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the community center architect, in which they spoke about the possibility of adding a banquet facility capable of holding 150 people. Questions were asked in reference to competition with other fitness facilities within Upper Merion Township. Ken Ballard is creating a business plan that will be presented to the Board in the spring. The subcommittee will be dissolved at this point because it has fulfilled its requirements.

Business Improvement District/Business Privilege Tax Subcommittee:

Ms. Kenney gave an update to the EAC members regarding zoning suggestions including changing the zoning to allow for mixed use buildings. She also reported that there will be a Business Improvement District open house on February 28th. The ECDC members would like to invite Eric Goldstein from the Business Improvement District to attend an ECDC meeting.

Tricentennial Subcommittee:

Ms. Dan-Sardinas commented that the gala was a huge success, and reported that

the next two Reesville Social Club gatherings will be held at Swedeland Fire Company and California Pizza Kitchen. Ms. Kenney added that the local history series about the Swedes in Upper Merion Township will be held at 2pm on February 24th, Colonial Day will be held on March 10th, the Native American Cultural Festival will be held on April 27th, the golf outing will be held in July, and the parade and community day will take place on September 7th.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

New Resident Welcome Package:

Mr. Kohler distributed a draft of the new resident welcome package to the ECDC members, including the initial contact letter welcoming the resident to the township and directing them to a subsite of the township website with links to various local organizations such as the Senior Center and School District, as well as voters registration information, trash collection information, board vacancies, dog license information, property tax information etc. Mr. Kohler will follow up with Carla Showell-Lee in the Public Information Office.

Communications Update:

Mr. Swisher reported that there was no Media Communications Advisory Board Meeting last month, but that they may create a public service announcement regarding proper car seat installation.

Township Development Update:

Mr. Greenly reported that Burger King and Chili's were approved and are adding sidewalks to their properties. He also mentioned that CHOP will be appearing before the Board of Supervisors for approval. Target started demolition in the Valley Forge Shopping Center, and that Wawa and Chick Fil-A are moving forward.

Board of Supervisors Update:

Ms. Kenney explained that a resident in Gulph Mills is requesting a zoning variance to become a bed and breakfast, and that the Supervisors are looking into creating an ordinance pertaining to Bed and Breakfasts. She also mentioned that she attended the SEPTA public forum regarding the rail line extension and was pleased to find that SEPTA projects are usually funded through public-private partnerships or by federal/state/county money, and not local municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Kenney reminded the ECDC members that the ECDC is a working committee and encouraged them to attend meetings. Ms. Dan-Sardinas asked that the members please start gathering their talking points for the joint Board of Supervisors meeting in May.

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

Sheryl Smith, Secretary

Smb

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: