

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
April 18, 2016

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on April 18, 2016, in the Board Room in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

The following members of the ECDC were present: Jenn Lyons, Chairperson; Evelyn Ankers, Secretary; Dan Yarnall, Scott Sibley, Rhonda Cohen, Joe Brophy, Gerri Vattimo, Upper Merion Township Parks and Recreation, Sally Slook, Upper Merion Township Assistant Manager, and Kyle Brown, Associate Township Planner.

MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Yarnall made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/22/16. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

New Business Welcome Packet:

Mr. Yarnall met with the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce to discuss the needs of the businesses outside of the Business Improvement District by using a “more than a mall” approach. He discussed the lack of a resource for businesses to get networking and advertising information, and the ECDC will seek guidance at the joint Board of Supervisors meeting.

Love My Local:

Ms. Lyons reported that the Township can put the Love My Local add in it’s regular newsletter as opposed to the Famer’s Market newsletter. The project is ready to launch, and will be announced at the joint Board of Supervisors meeting.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Ms. Slook reported that she has not received a response from the state in reference to the Smarter Cities grant; however it is ready for submittal when the acceptance period becomes open.

Ms. Slook described the Upper Merion Township Foundation; it is a 501C3 which has acted as a vehicle for donations to Township based projects. The Township is looking for ideas to use funds or host events to raise them such as hosting a beer garden to raise funds for the creation of a dog park. The ECDC discussed some recommendations for service projects and will report to back to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Brown led a discussion with the ECDC in reference to the creation of a strategic plan going forward for the committee. The group would like to reevaluate where it stands in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges, and how to identify needs among the community. The ECDC will hold a discussion with the Board of Supervisors in regards to going through a community needs and strategic planning