

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 16, 2018

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on July 16, 2018, in the Board Room of 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: Jenn Lyons, Chairperson; Scott Sibley, Vice Chairperson; Joe Brophy, Secretary; Andrew Turner; Andrea Esqueda; Kyle Brown, Associate Township Planner; and Tina Garzillo, Board of Supervisors Liaison.

MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from 5/21/2018 by Mr. Sibley. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brophy, and all were in favor.

TRANSITIONAL/AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Ms. Garzillo confirmed that the Board of Supervisors have discussed affordable housing. The Supervisors are concerned with seniors being forced to move out of Upper Merion because the market-rate rentals being built in the township are expensive. Mr. Brophy explained that private developers do not usually build affordable housing without incentive, and that the best route would be for the township to acquire land and subsidize it. Ms. Lyons commented that transitional housing is still being investigated; however it will require additional wrap-around services including being managed by a non-profit entity.

COMMUNITY GARDEN:

Mr. Brophy reported that the Community Garden's ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 14th, and was featured on Action News. He explained that the Community Garden has to establish the spring; and will then reach out to the American Community Garden Association regarding receiving a distinction as the first spring-fed community garden in the country.

MOORE-IRWIN HOUSE:

Mr. Brophy commented that bids are being solicited for remediation contractors at the Moore-Irwin site. The next step for the Moore-Irwin House project is to begin marketing to find commercial partners.

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP FONDATION:

Ms. Lyons will follow up with the Community Center regarding the subsidized memberships paid for by the Upper Merion Township foundation. Mr. Brophy also reported on fundraising events being held by other foundations.

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK:

Ms. Lyons commented that the Upper Merion Community Action Network Facebook page is growing and that they are connecting with various entities regarding opportunities to volunteer.