

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**December 18, 2017**

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on December 18, 2017, 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: Jenn Lyons, Chairperson; Alanna Strohecker, Vice Chairperson; Joe Brophy; Dan Yarnall; Kyle Brown, Associate Township Planner; and Erika Spott, Board of Supervisors Liaison.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from 9/18/2017 by Mr. Yarnall. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brophy, and all were in favor.

**MOORE-IRWIN HOUSE:**

Mr. Brophy reported that the environmental assessment for the Moore - Irwin property and the township would like the ECDC to form a subcommittee and a board of advisors to create a public-private partnership. The Township is looking into grants for funding for structural renovations to the building and to add an arboretum.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN:**

Mr. Brophy reported that the groundbreaking for the community garden was postponed due to inclement weather. He explained that a lot of the materials needed, including fencing has been offered by members of the business community. The first public meeting will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> in Freedom Hall and the garden is on track to open in late April or early May of 2018.

**BUSINESS INCUBATOR:**

Mr. Brophy has toured a few places with Eric Goldstein from the Business Improvement District and has chosen a potential location as well as someone to take the lead on the project. The business incubator is expected to be operational in one year.

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP FONDATION:**

Ms. Lyons met with two representatives from the Community Center Board and Upper Merion Area School District. Social workers from the school district are willing to administer the program to give subsidized memberships to families with financial need to join the community center. Ms. Lyons will attend the January foundation meeting to discuss the program and its funding.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:**

Ms. Lyons explained that Upper Merion Area School District has the largest number of students receiving subsidized lunches in Montgomery County, and many families are currently living at Motel 6. Ms. Lyons met with Tim Dooner from Valley Forge Presbyterian Church who has set up transitional housing in other communities and is willing to assist in the process in Upper

Merion Township. The ECDC discussed potential locations for transitional housing in the township.

**ECDC VIDEO:**

Mr. Brophy met with members of the Township's Public Information Office and a video highlighting the accomplishments of the ECDC over the past twenty years will be created. The video will end by asking for ideas for the next twenty years from the community.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

Mr. Brophy informed the committee that David Zellers, the managing director of Montgomery County Community Development would like to attend the January ECDC meeting. He also recommended that the Township look into giving a pitch to highlight the benefits of coming to Upper Merion to up and coming businesses.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

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Joseph Brophy, Secretary

Sms  
Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered