

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**January 15, 2018**

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on January 15, 2018, 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; Alanna Strohecker; Joe Brophy; Scott Sibley; Kyle Brown, Associate Township Planner; and David Zellers, Montgomery County Department of Commerce.

**COMMITTEE REOGANIZATION:**

Mr. Sibley motioned to nominate Ms. Lyons as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brophy, and all were in favor.

Ms. Lyons motioned to nominate Mr. Sibley as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brophy, and all were in favor.

Mr. Sibley motioned to nominate Mr. Brophy as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lyons, and all were in favor.

The ECDC will continue to hold their meetings on the third Monday of the month, at 7pm.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from 12/18/2017 by Ms. Lyons. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brophy, and all were in favor.

**MOORE-IRWIN HOUSE:**

Mr. Brophy reported that the first board of advisors meeting will take place on Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, and that the board still needs more members. The goal of this board of advisors is to put together a plan for: marketing the public-private partnership, structural remediation, and the possibility of the property being added to the historic register.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN:**

Mr. Brophy reported that the first public meeting will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> in Freedom Hall.

**BUSINESS INCUBATOR:**

Mr. Brophy commented that there are two buildings on the perimeter of the mall with potential to host the business incubator space, as well as a private space for private executives. A business mentoring program was also discussed by the ECDC.

**RIVERFRONT PARK:**

Mr. Brophy commented that there are questions as to who owns a portion of land on the riverfront, and that all research has pointed towards Reading International, and not Norfolk Southern. Two other adjacent properties are owned by PECO and Upper Merion Township.

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP FONDATION:**

Ms. Lyons met with Sally Slook and Beth from the Upper Merion School District. The Community Center subsidy program has been approved as a pilot, with a potential to be permanent if successful. Mr. Brophy will discuss fundraising ideas for the foundation with Ms. Slook.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:**

Ms. Lyons will be meeting with Tim Dooner and members of the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church Board in February. The ECDC discussed potential locations for transitional housing in Upper Merion Township.

**DISCUSSION WITH COMMERCE DEPARTMENT:**

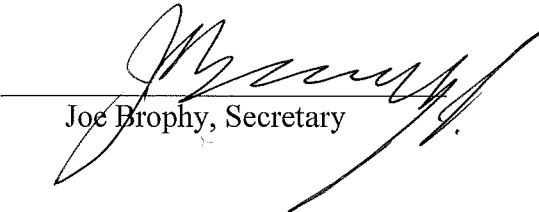
Mr. Zollers, the Director of Commerce oversees the Economic and Community Development Department, the Redevelopment Authority, the Industrial Development Authority, and the Workforce Board in Montgomery County. He would like to work with the county's Planning Commission, Housing and Community Development Department, as well as individual municipalities to offer council where needed. The ECDC discussed the Commerce Department's loan program for gap financing for small businesses.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

Ms. Lyons discussed getting the word out about the open ECDC positions throughout the township, and will write a small advertisement to be submitted to the Public Information Office.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

  
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Joe Brophy, Secretary

Sms

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered