

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 19, 2018

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its scheduled meeting on March 19, 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, Chairperson; Scott Sibley, Vice Chairperson; Joe Brophy, Secretary; Tim Dooner; and Kyle Brown, Associate Township Planner.

MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from 2/19/2018 by Mr. Sibley. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brophy, and all were in favor.

MOORE-IRWIN HOUSE:

Mr. Brophy reported that the Board of Supervisors has approved additional funds toward a remediation study. The property contains mold, lead, and asbestos.

TROUT CREEK:

Mr. Brophy reported that a local biologist has reviewed the environmental reports and has agreed to spearhead the effort to get Trout Creek flowing again.

COMMUNITY GARDEN:

Mr. Brophy reported that the Community Garden groundbreaking has been cancelled, as it had been repeatedly postponed due to inclement weather. The official opening of the garden is scheduled for spring of 2018, and fifteen businesses have contributed thus far. Donations received for the Community Garden include: well finding services, a bulldozer and operator, stormwater planning services, and deer fence. The garden still needs donated or discounted PVC piping, cisterns, lumber, and grass seed. Mr. Brophy has also been in contact with members of SEPTA who helped build a community garden in Philadelphia.

RIVERFRONT PARK:

Mr. Brophy attended the chairman's meeting to discuss the issue of land ownership regarding opening a riverfront park. The township's solicitor is running a legal title search to find out if there is any information regarding parcel ownership that has not yet been discovered. Mr. Brophy also reported that the Federal Private Road Act states that a public entity cannot be denied access to public owned property by other owners when it is being sought out for public use.

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP FONDATION:

Ms. Lyons has not yet received a list of students from the school district who would receive subsidized community center memberships however; social workers are calling the parents individually to find out if they would put the memberships to use.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:

Mr. Dooner explained that situational homelessness has tripled in recent years in suburban communities. Transitional housing would be secured through the township or with private landlords and used for six months. Volunteers would assist the families in addressing the underlying reasons for their homelessness. Mr. Dooner will present more information to the ECDC regarding transitional housing programs in other municipalities.

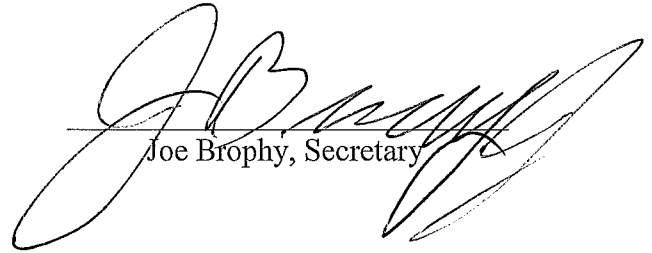
ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

The ECDC discussed creating a community action network through social media and group email. The network would be to gain volunteers on a project to project basis who otherwise wouldn't be able to commit to a citizen board, and would also include projects that children can participate in.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Sms
Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered



Joe Brophy, Secretary