

**Upper Merion Township Economic and Community Development Committee  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for August 19, 2019**

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on August 19, 2019 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Frank Buttarro, Vice-Chair  
Clara Martis  
Joe Brophy  
Kyle Brown, Associate Planner  
Tim Dooner

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. Buttarro motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes from June and July with Mr. Dooner seconding and all in approval.

**2019 KEY PROJECT UPDATES:**

*Skating Park*

While the quote received is reasonable, it has many gaps in information and the company who provided it will not be available until mid-September to meet in-person to discuss. A second quote is expected from another company, but overall it does not seem likely that the rink will be ready this winter as previously stated. Once an acceptable quote has been received, it can then be presented to possible sponsors to assist in funding.

*Moore-Irwin House*

Mr. Brophy will be meeting with Public Works and Steve Schreiner on location to put together a plan of action to begin work on the Arboretum, with three other tree removal companies assisting with the removal of dead or dying trees. Should timing allow, Public Works will assist in organizing a work day/fundraiser to further clear the area. Ideally there will be a garden path leading from the parking lot by late September. The actual structure of the Moore-Irwin house is currently being reevaluated as it was determined that the structure may not be salvageable and the entire building may need to be demolished. The hope is that at least part of the structure may be saved to rebuild from, but at the moment no definitive plans can be made until the results of the evaluation are made available.

Mr. Brophy made a motion to recommend that the township pay an engineer to formally complete the study on what is and isn't salvageable, as well as projected cost, based on the 2008 study. Mr. Buttarro seconded, and all were in favor.

*River Park*

The joint sub-committee with the Parks & Recreation Department is in the starting phases, with Mr. Brophy meeting with Ms. Esqueda, Dan Russell, and Michael Trachtenberg to formalize everything that has been discussed in prior ECDC meetings. The committee will be made up of 7 people: 2 from the ECDC (Ms. Esqueda and Mr. Brophy), 2 from Parks & Rec (Mr. Trachtenberg and Neil Cardenas), and 3 others who

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have yet to be determined. After the holiday they will reconvene to formally recommend the 3 additional members and submit to the Board.

The first three recommendations the committee has in the works would be finding a way to engage FCA/FCM to use the existing study as baseline information for a more focused study related specifically to River Park, engaging the solicitor and title company to find the best way to acquire the land in question, and requesting that the firm who did the previous study on River Park to use the information to establish best uses, funding opportunities, and identifying the appropriate grants to secure to move forward with the project.

*Gathering People*

The current inspiration for a multi-use community space is the Upper Dublin "super library" which is currently under construction. The project will have the library as well as many spaces which the community can utilize for meetings and events.

Mr. Dooner met with Mr. Lachenmayer of Public Works and John from Parks & Recreation at the Community Garden and there was much more open space than anticipated. They discussed putting in a possible splash park, or at least temporary fencing for a dog park until the new dog park is completed.

*Transitional & Affordable Housing*

Potential funding sources are holding up much of the planning process but in the meantime, Mr. Dooner will be reaching out to local housing authorities to discuss collaboration regarding programmatic structure. In addition, a potential trip to visit other community committees to see how they are moving forward with affordable housing projects was discussed.

**OTHER PROJECTS:**

*Citizen Board Mixer*

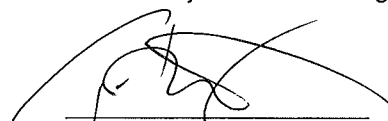
Email invitations were sent out for the next Citizen Board Mixer, which will be held on September 12, 2019 at Workhorse Brewery. Since the brewery does not serve food and there are only a few food trucks nearby, the possibility of a pot-luck or ordering pizzas was discussed. A decision on food will be made when there is a better idea on the number of attendees.

*Norfolk Southern*

Norfolk Southern is selling 22.5 acres of land directly across from Heuser Park. Since the ownership of the land and the zoning is technically under question, it was suggested that the township should seek ownership and control to either lease or otherwise develop the property. Mr. Brophy made a motion to officially recommend that the township officially inquire about the acquisition of the land, which was seconded by Mr. Buttaro with all in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Brophy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Dooner with all in favor.

  
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Tim Dooner, Secretary