

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**March 16, 2015**

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for their scheduled meeting on March 16, 2015, 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, Secretary; Dan Yarnall; Evelyn Ankers; Rhonda Cohen; Terrance Barclift; Scott Greenly, Staff Liaison; and Erika Spott, Board of Supervisors Liaison. Also in attendance was Dan Russell, Director of the Upper Merion Township Parks and Recreation Department.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 2/9/15. All were in favor.

**COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Russell gave a presentation to the ECDC members about the new Upper Merion Township Community Center. Mr. Russell presented floorplans and architectural renderings of the facility located at 431 West Valley Forge Road. The building will have three levels including; the Upper Merion Senior Center, the new Park and Recreation Department offices, large fitness spaces, a child care center, a patio space for a garden club, rooms for music art and cooking lessons, and meeting rooms. The Park and Recreation department is currently devising a Charter Pass Holder program which will include: the names of charter members included on the wall inside the building, a ribbon cutting celebration and the first to tour and see demonstrations in the facility. The entire business plan along with staffing needs is included on the township website.

Substantial completion for the Community Center's construction is expected to be near the end of September due to issues obtaining an NPDES permit through the Montgomery County Conservation District. The Community Center Property also includes a trail from the rear of the property to the middle school on Keebler Road. Mr. Russell also explained improvements to Route 23 (Valley Forge Road), as well as the opening of General Maxwell Road to allow safer routes of travel. A traffic light will also be installed at Caley Road and Route 23.

**CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Lyons reported that she attended the Chairperson's breakfast and that there were several overlapping areas of interest among the township citizen boards. The media Communications Advisory Board is placing an LED message board outside of the Township Building and are working on revising the Township Website. Many boards are also interested in creating surveys to gauge the satisfaction of township residents with services provided by the Township. The chairperson's group also discussed a committee

open house but opening it to other volunteer organizations within the township such as Meals on Wheels and the fire companies.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Transition workshop:**

Mr. Yarnall will submit a draft to Township Manager Kraynik to discuss the possibility of a transition workshop at a chairman’s meeting. The workshop can include such topics as; financial literacy, planning and security, investment planning, etc. The workshops could be open high school age students as well as township employees.

**Safe Trade Zone:**

Ms. Spott expressed concerns about logistic issues considering there cannot be total police oversight, and the township is unable to outlaw gun trading. The ECDC discussed instead putting together a Public Safety Announcement to alert residents to safety concerns when purchasing items online.

**Love Your Local:**

Ms. Ankers discussed creating a side by side document with a local business and a local resident, and will meet with the Public Information Officer to discuss further. The ECDC discussed soliciting nominations through the township newsletter and in business tax statements.

**Beer Garden:**

Ms. Lyons reported that a brewery can only get a license to operate off the property for 20 event days per year, and township insurance requires the checking of identification at events. The ECDC will follow up with fire companies and other breweries to find more liquor control board license information.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

**Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan:**

Mr. Greenly explained that a televised community workshop will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and that the survey will remain on the township website until the end of April.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Scott Sibley, Secretary

Sms

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: