

## Economic Development Committee Minutes

January 6, 2015

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Chairperson Doug Callantine, Jack Thalheimer, Jim Marshall, Dave Mulvey, Jack Loew, Bruce Goodman, Barbara Nye, Wendy Klinghoffer, Richard Gaglianese, Christopher Lionetti, Peter Brandow, Judith Kratka, Karen Wiley Sandler, Charles Kahn Jr., Michael Markman and Tara Wehmeyer.

**In Attendance:** Larry Matteo, Van Strother, Lori Schreiber, Zac Huluyeu, Tom Federman, David Landskroner, and Ricky Liss.

**Note:** The EDC is strictly an advisory committee and takes no action on township matters required under state legislation. EDC meetings are essentially a workshop environment for ED policies, programs, or projects which develop over a considerable length of time. When finalized, programs and projects are presented for public discussion to the Commissioners under the Public Affairs agenda. As such, minutes are summary in nature and not verbatim.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 1: Welcome**

EDC Chairman, Doug Callantine, opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and expressing his gratitude for both a full house for the first meeting of 2015 and the first meeting with a start time of 7:30AM.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 2: EDC Retreat Follow-Up**

On January 5, 2015 at 7:00PM Chairman Doug Callantine presented a slide show to the Board of Commissioners reporting on the EDC Retreat that was held on November 12, 2014. There were several EDC members in attendance along with 6 commissioners. The key discussion points that were presented to the commissioners were:

- Target Corridors
- Grants
- Tools for New/Existing Businesses
- Economic Development Committee Composition
- Next Steps
- Community Outreach/Education Needs

The 3 main takeaways from the evening were:

1. The need for education/marketing to the businesses and community
2. Update the Business Resource Guide
3. Direct Subcommittee Goals to increase production to accomplish goals and ease resident fatigue with an overload of studies.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 3: Abington Township Business Associations**

Doug Callantine introduced and welcomed Zac Huluyeu from Prime Time Beef & Ale and Tom Federman of Midgard Properties. Zac and Tom are interested in starting a business association in Roslyn Valley. As a result of the discussion, a meeting will be scheduled with the Roslyn Valley property and business owners with mentorship from the EDC. Members from the Keswick Village Business Association will be present at the initial meeting to discuss how they have built a successful business association in Keswick Village.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 4: Hightop Real Estate & Development**

David Landskroner and Ricky Liss were welcomed by the EDC. David and Ricky spoke to the group and showed renderings of their proposed apartment building they would like to build along the Old York Road Corridor. The committee was impressed with what David is proposing, but asked that he report back to the EDC when he determines what the economic benefit the building will do for the township. This research will also impact the school district.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 5: Updates on New Development/Business Prospects**

Larry Matteo informed the EDC on the following updates:

- Franklin Residential bought a section of Keswick Village that was for sale. Franklin Residential has big plans for the property. They have spent a lot of time learning what the community wants and plan to be a part of something to make the Village better rather than to change Keswick Village. The real estate company plans to spend nearly \$2 million to renovate the interiors and exteriors of the existing retail and residential spaces. Two leases are out that have the potential to fill much of the vacant retail space. The second phase involves constructing 65 to 80 age-restricted apartments on top of two to three stories of parking. That estimated \$14 million project likely won't get underway for a couple of years.
- There are two meetings scheduled to discuss student housing at Penn State Abington.
- The long awaited Senor Salsa is now open.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 6: New Business**

None at this time.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 7: Old Businesses**

None at this time.

**Next EDC Meeting: Tuesday February 3, 2015 at 7:30AM**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Tara Wehmeyer, Assistant Township Manager/Economic Development Director**