

Economic Development Committee Minutes

March 3, 2015

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

In Attendance: Larry Matteo, Van Strother, George Wrigley, Steve Balin, Michael Kelly-Cataldi, Michelle Espinal

Not in Attendance: Barbara Nye, Peter Brandow, Charles Kahn Jr.

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 welcoming the committee and welcoming the guests in attendance: Steven Balin with Franklin Residential, Michael Kelly-Cataldi with Kelly-Cataldi Home and Dino's Backstage, and David Ade, AIA with SMP Architects.

Agenda Item EDC - 2: Economic Development Partnership with Penn State

Penn State's new President, Eric Barron, is focused on increasing economic development through partnerships involving Penn State campuses and local or regional groups. Two administrators from the new office of Industrial Partnerships at University Park will be visiting PSU Abington on March 30th to find out how the local campus is involved in the community. PSU Abington has partnered with the Abington Art Center as makers space for an idea incubator.

Agenda Item EDC - 3: Keswick Commons

Steven Balin from Franklin Residential and Michael Kelly-Cataldi from Kelly-Cataldi Home were present to talk about Keswick Commons. Keswick Commons consists of 20 apartments and 14 retail stores along Keswick and Easton Roads.

Prior to purchasing the property, Steven Balin reached out to the township, existing businesses, and the community to 'Listen, Learn, and Respond'. Franklin Regional plans to upgrade the apartments and bring in more restaurants. Queen Sushi & Chinese will be undergoing future renovation and three restaurants will be opening in the very near future:

- Dino's Backstage & Cabaret - A deluxe restaurant bar & cabaret
- The Soda Fountain - 1950's style soda fountain and ice cream shop
- Humpty's Dumplings - American Fusion

For more information on the Keswick Commons, please see the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Agenda Item EDC - 4: Penn State Housing Presentation

Dr. Karen Wiley Sandler, Chancellor at Penn State Abington, and David Ade, AIA with SMP Architects, presented the Penn State Abington student housing design. The design coincides with the campus inspiration. The building is going to be a green educational building with rain gardens. Two meetings were held to allow for a proactive response to the concerns of neighbors. The first meeting was with local businesses and the second was with local residents.

For a detailed look at the Penn State Abington Student Housing Project please see the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Agenda Item EDC - 5: Old Business

- a. Open EDC seats: The six reappointments for the EDC were unanimously voted on at the Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for February 12, 2015. There is one open seat which will be decided on at the April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.
- b. The Rydal-Meadowbrook Business Association is seeking assistance from the EDC on this year's Economic Summit.
- c. There is a meeting scheduled for March 9th at Prime Time Beef & Ale with Roslyn Valley Businesses to continue mentoring the group to start a business association.
- d. Noble Plaza Update - waiting on feedback from Jim Scully's architect.
- e. Old York Road / Susquehanna - next meeting date TBD.
- f. Old York Rd. Development - Hightop Real Estate & Development is redesigning their plan.
- g. Joint symposium with neighboring communities will be planned, date TBD.

Agenda Item EDC - 6: New Business

Michael Markman reported that Iron Hill Brewery will be opening in the Huntington Valley Shopping Center. A new coffee house will be coming into the shopping center, as well.

Michelle Espinal, Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Art Haywood, was introduced and stated that the Senator and staff would like to be involved with Abington Township.

Next EDC Meeting: Tuesday April 7, 2015 at 7:30AM

Respectfully Submitted:

Tara Wehmeyer, Assistant Township Manager/Economic Development Director