

## **Economic Development Committee Minutes**

**October 6, 2015**

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Chairman Doug Callantine, Jim Marshall, Bruce Goodman, Dave Mulvey, Charles Kahn Jr., Randee Elton, Bill Meyerowitz, Karen Wiley Sandler, Judith Kratka, Christopher Lionetti, Mike McPaul, Barbara Nye, Richard Gaglianese, Jack Loew, Wendy Klinghoffer, Michael Markman, and Tara Wehmeyer.

**In Attendance:** Commissioner John Spiegelman, Larry Matteo, Cakky Evans

**Excused:** Peter Brandow

**Not In Attendance:**

**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**

Chairman Doug Callantine opened the meeting by welcoming the committee and Commissioners in attendance.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 2: Fairway Transit District**

Larry Matteo informed the EDC that there is interest in building 244 apartments on 8 acres which would include 2 levels of parking below the structure. This plan stems from the Fairway Transit Ordinance that was passed in 2010. Larry will report additional information to the EDC as more information becomes available.

### **Agenda Item EDC - 3: Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council**

Cakky Evans from the EAC spoke to the EDC about the *Go Green Rewards Card*. You can get a card at any EAC event and then get rewards for going green. Ten credits earns you a free LED lightbulb and discount coupons to local businesses. For additional information, visit the EAC website: [eac-abington.org](http://eac-abington.org).

#### **Agenda Item EDC - 4: Willow Grove Park Mall - PREIT**

Romaine Crawford, Willow Grove Park Mall - PREIT General Manager, was unable to attend the EDC meeting. Ms. Crawford will be rescheduled to attend another meeting in the near future.

#### **Agenda Item EDC - 5: New Businesses in Abington**

- a. Donut Connection - 1829 Old York Rd, Abington
- b. Zips Dry Cleaners - 732 Old York Rd, Jenkintown

#### Coming Soon:

- a. Sports Authority - ASC, October 2015
- b. Corner Bakery - ASC, December 2015
- c. Lily of the Valley Cupcakery - Keswick Village
- d. Dino's Backstage - Keswick Village
- e. Bernie's Restaurant - Wharton Rd/Highland Ave
- f. Iron Hill Brewery - HVSC
- g. Starbucks - HVSC

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

##### **a. Penn State Housing**

An overview of the Penn State Housing project was discussed since the 'economic impact study' was presented to the EDC on the evening of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board of Commissioners approved the proposed ordinance at a special meeting held on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Larry Matteo informed the group that the land development process will be the next step for the project. There will be neighborhood meetings and meetings with Rydal Park and other neighboring commercial businesses regarding the land development. Final approval of the entire project will then go to the Board of Commissioners.

##### **b. Old York Rd / Susquehanna Rd Project**

A Multimodal grant was submitted to DCED for Phase 1 of the Old York Rd/Susquehanna Rd project. DCED is scheduled to meet on November 10, 2015 to announce the grant awards.

**c. Business Resource Guide**

The EDC has a goal to update the current business resource guide and to create a quick reference guide for local businesses and those interested in opening a business in Abington Township.

**d. Montgomery County Planning Commission Walkability Audit**

Abington Township was a grant recipient chosen by Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) as a focus area for a transit oriented development audit for MCPC's new Walk Montco project. The audit took place on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The group initially met at Curds and Whey for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. The audit itself involved splitting into two groups. One group walked around the Noble station area, along The Fairway and north on Old York Rd. The second group also walked the Noble station area and south on Old York Road into Jenkintown. The two groups gathered back at Curds and Whey to discuss their walks and to address some of the areas that might have impediments to walking and a need for improvement.

An interactive map welcoming comments and feedback is available online at:

[wikimapping.net/wikimap/walkmontco.html](http://wikimapping.net/wikimap/walkmontco.html)

**e. Roslyn Valley Business Association (RVBA)**

Leadership roles were voted on and monthly meetings continue with great positive motivation. RVBA submitted the application and has received 501(c)(3) status. RVBA has collected sponsorship donations to put towards holiday lights on the lampposts along Easton Rd and Bradfield Rd and in the trees along Easton Rd in the area of the Roslyn Valley Shopping Center. This will be a phased approach as more funds are raised to purchase additional lights in future years. RVBA will set up a vendor table at the Roslyn Valley Car Show & Fall Festival to help gain members and spread the word of the association.

f. A list of potential presenters for upcoming EDC meetings was created. The idea was designed to find out what the future plans are for the presenter/business, what their thoughts and ideas are moving forward, how we, as the EDC, can cooperate the vision into our future plans. The list, subject to additions and not limited to, is:

1. Willow Grove Park Mall - PREIT
2. Rydal Park - Nov. EDC meeting
3. Abington School District
4. Baederwood Shopping Center
5. Developer's Diversified
6. Standard Press Steel (SPS)
7. YMCA
8. Penn State
9. Jim Scully
10. Abington Hospital
11. Franklin Residential - Steven Balin
12. Abington Art Center
13. ~~Abington Shopping Center - Sept. EDC meeting~~

**Next EDC Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:30AM**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

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