

Economic Development Committee Minutes

February 2, 2016

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 everyone in attendance.

Agenda Item EDC - 2: Abington School District Presentation

EDC member and Abington School District Business Manager, Christopher Lionetti, introduced Abington School District Superintendent, Dr. Amy Sichel and Director of the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology, Thomas Allen.

Dr. Sichel and Mr. Allen delivered an informative presentation regarding the concept of S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

The Eastern Center for Arts and Technology offers paid internships for 11th and 12th graders. The students spend part of their day at their high school then spend the remainder of their day at Eastern. Continuing education training, adult skill training, enhancement to existing trainings, and employee required trainings are all also offered at Eastern. For more information on the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology, please visit their website: <https://www.eastech.org>.

Abington School District (ASD) had a study performed to accommodate the growing numbers in the school district. The focus was on an addition to the high school to build S.T.E.A.M. ASD hired an architect for the feasibility phase which adds a two-story building to the current high school.

The proposed vision is to have a state of the art technology center which would consist of all smart classrooms, large and small group spaces, science labs, engineering, art, photo, and computer rooms, an area for choral and instruments.

An upgrade to the HVAC and infrastructure would need to be done along with renovating existing classrooms. Additions and alterations would be made to the administration and guidance areas. Additional small gymnasium and cafeteria space would also be included.

Dr. Sichel plans to deliver the presentation to the ASD school board in March. This is a 4-5 year plan.

Agenda Item EDC - 3: 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. A draft of the updated business resource guide has been completed and will be reviewed by the guide's subcommittee. Once the business resource guide committee has approved the draft then the guide will be distributed and posted on the township website.

Agenda Item EDC - 4: New Business

Interviews for the open EDC seats were conducted on Monday, February 1st. A recommendation to fill the two open seats and to also have an additional, third candidate join as an alternate seat will be made to the Board of Commissioners.

Agenda Item EDC - 5: Old Business

- a. A list of the 2016 potential EDC goals was distributed and discussed. The EDC voted unanimously to move forward with the listed goals.
- b. Old York Rd / Susquehanna Rd Project: A Multimodal grant was submitted to DCED and also to PennDOT for Phase 1 of the Old York Rd/Susquehanna Rd project. The grant award announcements have been put on hold until the state finalizes its budget.

Agenda Item EDC - 7: Schedule Presenters for upcoming EDC meetings:

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

Next EDC Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:30AM

Respectfully Submitted:
Tara Wehmeyer
Assistant Township Manager/Economic Development Director