

Economic Development Committee Minutes

June 15, 2017

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairman Doug Callantine, Jim Marshall, Bruce Goodman, Dave Mulvey, Charles Kahn, Jr, Mike McPaul, Matt Vahey, Erin Vizza, Liz Smith, Christopher Lionetti, Damian Fernandez, Randee Elton, Linda Millevoi, and Tara Wehmeyer.

In Attendance: Van Strother, Maria Wyrsta, Richard Manfredi

Excused: Wendy Klinghoffer

Not In Attendance: Richard Gaglianese, Hana Iverson

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: Old York Road / Susquehanna Road Project

- 2015 DCED MTF Grant
 - Closed on 1104 OYR on April 12, 2017
 - Continuing negotiations with 1100 & 1102 OYR and 1907 Susquehanna Road
 - 1106 OYR – scheduled to go to sheriff’s sale June 28, 2017

- 2015 PennDOT MTF Grant –

Next Steps: Township Manager, Assistant Township Manager, Township Engineer and Assistant Township Engineer will meet to discuss RFP process.

- 2016 DCED MTF Grant
 - project budget and scope will be revised to reflect the \$900,000 awarded
- OYR/Susquehanna Road Steering and Task Committees have been created to assist with the project

Agenda Item EDC – 3: Vacancy Property Review Board Committee Update

The Vacant Property Review Board establishes rules and regulations consistent with the Urban Redevelopment ACT for certification of blighted properties within the Township. The Vacant Property Review Board will advise the Township in matters relating to the requisition, disposition and redevelopment of properties acquired through the certification process.

The committee typically meets the first Thursday of the month at 4:00PM. Copies of the agendas and meeting minutes can be found on the township website:

<http://www.abington.org/government/board-of-commissioners/minutes-and-agendas>

Agenda Item EDC - 4: Township Line Road Corridor

Mike McPaul and Richard Gaglianese plan to walk the corridor as an initial step to create ideas for a business association in the area. Commissioner Markman requested to join them.

Agenda Item EDC - 5: New Business

Penn State Abington Update:

- Dr. Damian Fernandez updated the committee on the status of the Penn State Abington Housing Project. The 400 student housing facility opens in August 2017. The building is fully subscribed and had 100 students on a waiting list; 85 of which had to be released.
- Dr. Fernandez also announced that the governor released \$40M towards the new economic building. A traffic study and mitigation was done along with a neighborhood meeting. Dr. Fernandez assures that Penn State Abington will engage the community in every step along the way with the project. The hope is to open the economic building in 2020.
- Twenty new faculty members have been brought on board. Penn State Abington is a 4,000 student campus with a 35% yield. It has been a terrific season for admissions.

Agenda Item EDC – 6: Old Business

- EMCCC organized a breakfast seminar ‘What’s New in Abington’ on April 25, 2017. The event focused on developments in education, economy, and health care. The EDC attended in place of the May monthly meeting. Featured presenters:
 - Meg McGoldrick, President of Abington – Jefferson Health
 - Doug Callantine, Chairman of the Abington EDC
 - Dr. Damian Fernandez, Chancellor, Penn State Abington
 - Dr. Amy Sichel, Superintendent, Abington School District

Agenda Item EDC - 7: PREIT – Willow Grove Park Mall

The EDC welcomed Joseph F. Coradino, Chairman & CEO; Joseph Aristone, EVP of Leasing; and Mark Gambill, VP of Development to the meeting. The PREIT team conducted a presentation on PREIT and the plans and ideas for Willow Grove Park Mall. PREIT is actively working various ideas for tenants and entertainment.

Agenda Item EDC - 8: 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. Penn State Abington – Student Housing Tour: August 8, 2017
2. Abington Friends
3. Montgomery County Planning Commission
4. Abington Township Planning Commission
5. Holy Redeemer Hospital
6. Abington School District
7. Judith Kratka, Abington Jefferson Health
8. Franklin Residential – Steven Balin
9. ~~Willow Grove Park Mall – June 15, 2017~~
10. ~~Abington Jefferson Health – April 25, 2017~~
11. ~~Jay Blumenthal, Abington Treasurer, Feb 7, 2017~~

Next Meeting:

August 8, 2017 @ 8:00 AM

Penn State Abington Student Housing Building

Lions Gate at Penn State Abington

1001 Old York Rd | Abington, PA 19001

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