

**GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
April 12, 2011

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room.

**Statement of Proper Notice**

Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the Lawrence Township Growth & Redevelopment Committee has been provided by filing an annual meeting schedule with the Municipal Clerk, and by filing the agenda with the Municipal Clerk, posting prominently in the Municipal Building, and mailing to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian and the Lawrence Ledger.

The roll was called as follows at 7:55 p.m.:

**Present:** Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt, Vice Chairperson Ryan Kennedy, Cami Granahan, Tushar Patel, Karen Vincent-Lavanga, David Maffei, Planning Board Representative, Charles Lavine, Zoning Board of Adjustment Representative, Michel Franc, Route 1 Development Committee

**Excused Absence:** Michael Marion

**Absent:** Lovette Love-Stevens, Jags Vazirani, Donald Little, David Mizenko, Dennis Norton, William Zimmer, John Conroy, Kurt Koevenig, David Donahue, Board of Education Liaison, and Pamela Mount, Councilwoman

**Also Present:** Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate; Council Liaison Michael Powers, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School, and Susan Snook, Secretary

**Welcome of New Members:**

The Board members introduced themselves to the new members of the Board.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Vice-Chairperson questioned whether the attached business list is the handout from the last meeting or is it a new list. The March 8, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

**New Business Welcome Effort:**

There are no new businesses that have come into the Township. Chairman Bobbitt stated do we want to prepare a Welcome Letter to the businesses who have been in the Township for a year or should we go forward and welcome the new businesses that come into the Township in the future.

Councilman Powers made a recommendation that we just go forward basis. Councilman Powers stated that they just had a State of the Township meeting with the Chamber and they are there to help the businesses. The U. S. Route 1 news paper sometimes helps the businesses in the Township; however, they do the Route 1 area.

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**Awards Program:**

Chairperson Bobbitt explained about the Committee's awards program to the new members. The ceremony is always held in October. The last Awards Ceremony was held at Rider University. The ceremony is held around the Wednesday after Columbus Day.

Subject to confirmation, this years Awards Program will be on October 4, 2011, which was announced at the Chamber meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the speakers for the awards program. Last year the Committee had a real estate representative. Chairperson Bobbitt asked Mr. Link to obtain a list for the last 5-years who they had in the past. We will discuss at next month's meeting. In the meantime, if everyone can think of someone to speak at the Awards Program.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy gave a brief description for the new members on the business survey that was handed out to the businesses and the main concern is improving transportation. The main concern was improving bus transportation. A suggestion was maybe someone from the Office Smart Growth and to come and speak. Vivian Baker is in the Transit Development office.

Councilman Powers stated that one of the items that New Jersey Transit will be doing is posting the scheduled time at the bus shelters so people will know when the next bus should arrive. You can go to the New Jersey Transit site to find out more information.

Mr. Lavine made a suggestion to have Marc Edenzon, President of Special Olympics, New Jersey to speak at the awards. The special event for the Olympics will be held in 2014 at the site at Princess Road. Mr. Lavine will get in contact with him.

There was a discussion on the Special Olympics that will be held in 2014. We should try to find out how many people attended, which would be good for the businesses as well as the hotels in the Township. We are splitting the hotels with Newark New Jersey. The events will be held at the College of New Jersey.

**Loyalty Card Program:**

Councilwoman Mount was not at the meeting; however, Councilman Powers stated that she is struggling with program because the cards, when being swiped, are not working.

Mr. Franc asked how he could obtain a card. He was told he could call the Lawrenceville Main Street, get a card at a store who participates or ask Councilwoman Mount.

Dr. Maffei thought it will be a great idea to get Ms. Granahans' picture in the Lawrence Leger to advertise the Loyalty Card Program because Ms. Granahan did redeem an item from using card.

**Meeting Speakers and Venues:**

Chairperson Bobbitt received an e-mail from Cheryl of GMTMA will be attending the meeting in May. She also would like to have local property managers attend that are having traffic issues.

It was suggested that Mr. Link put this information on our web-site. We will also ask the Chamber and Brandywine to come to the meeting to discuss traffic issues.

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It was also mentioned to have a meeting at the Special Olympics building which is on Princess Road.

The committee still needs to reach out to GEPNA and BPU. It was asked if we should have a joint meeting. Approximately 1 to 1-½ years ago, the Committee had a meeting at the Nature Center with GEPNA and their meeting is on the second Monday of the month. Councilman Powers will be in touch with Joseph Cermele to try to coordinate a meeting with GEPNA and Growth & Redevelopment Committee for June.

Chairperson Bobbitt asked if anyone remembers what else was on the business survey besides traffic issues. Vice-chair Kennedy thought it was transportation issues. Chairperson Bobbitt suggested we leave this for the fall.

**Other Business:**

Councilman Powers stated that they had a meeting with the State of the Township and Council and we did something different, we had Mr. Winderman from the Brunswick Circle site also speak. Mr. Krawczun spoke about the resources available through the business community to help them expand their businesses. Mr. Winderman spoke as a developer about the first site he built, which was the CVS on Route 1 and how the Township worked with him when he was doing the construction of the building. This was different because this was an actual case study, which was interesting.

Mr. Lavine brought up the Brunswick Pike area in the vicinity of the Budney building and how it was an eye sore and the other eye sore is the old Craft Cleaners. There was a brief discussion about how can we get it torn down. There must be a way we can declare it a safety issue because it is deteriorating. We had the same issues with the Pit Stop.

Vice-chair Kennedy stated that Ewing has a standing committee that deals with problems on buildings that have the property owners report to them and the Committee could recommend action to have it demolished and then charged to the property owner. Chairperson Bobbitt asked if the Township has a Board to solve these types of issues.

Councilman Powers wants to see if the property taxes are being paid or and the next step would be to see how we apply for State money for clean-up, and check if we can have removal of the building because it is a safety issue.

There was lengthy discussion on what we could do with the building. If we could sell it for a tax sale, level it so we have an empty lot or maybe once it is developed, someone might want to purchase.

The next meeting will be held on May 10, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Susan Snook, Secretary  
Growth & Redevelopment Committee

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