

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2011

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, June 14, 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 7:45 p.m.:

Present: Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt, Vice Chairperson Ryan Kennedy, Lovette Love-Stevens, Tushar Patel, David Maffei, Planning Board Representative, Charles Lavine, Donald Little, Michel Franc, Michael Powers, Council Liaison

Excused Absence: Cami Granahan, Michael Marion, Karen Vincent-Lavanga, Dennis Norton, Pamela Mount, Councilwoman

Absent: Jags Vazirani, David Mizenko, William Zimmer, John Conroy, Kurt Koevenig, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School

Also Present: Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Susan Snook, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

The May 10, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

Follow-up with GMTMA:

Chairperson Bobbitt gave a brief summary about the follow-up with GMTMA, which is the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association. Chairperson Bobbitt asked the Board what they thought about the presentation and Chairperson Bobbitt thought it was interesting. He said it was a shame we did not have enough outside people to attend to hear about van pooling. Is there anything we can do to help to spread the word? Councilman Powers stated that the County takes the lead on that, they are aware when we have the Delaware Valley Planning members come in for federal money and highway funds. This is more for the County folks.

New Business Welcome Effort:

Chairperson Bobbitt stated there is Subs & Bites across from the Lawrence Shopping Center. Councilperson Powers stated there is a new business in the Mercer Mall called Euro wax. However, he was not sure how long they have been opened.

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Welcome Campaign:

Chairperson Bobbitt will draft a welcome letter to send out to the new businesses. Councilman Powers stated that Ryan Kennedy has been attending the Chamber membership meeting and the Chamber would like to reach out to the new business coming into Town and if we could coordinate our efforts with them.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked if there was a clearing house or a point of contact for that kind of information when new businesses are having opening or having events? Councilman Powers stated that the businesses sends letter to the Clerk about their ribbon cutting; so we need to talk to Mayor Puliti to see if the letters could be forwarded to the Growth & Redevelopment Committee members.

Awards Program:

Cami Granahan is out of the Country and usually does the press release regarding our Awards Program. This is where the surveys for nominations are sent out. We have the Mayor's award, Small Business, Large Business, Environmental, and Residential.

Chairperson Bobbitt said we are re-naming the Environmental Award to the "Ralph Copleman Environmental Award". Mr. Link asked the question to the Board how it is sensitive using Ralph's name, do we do it now or re-name it at the Awards Program? And get Joyce involved with it. Councilman Powers asked Joyce Copleman and she was very honored. Charlie Lavine asked if Joyce will make the presentation? Chairperson Bobbitt will reach out to Joyce Copleman.

Mr. Link asked that the award will be called the "Ralph Copleman Environmental Award? If Joyce agrees, we will put that in the Press Release.

Councilman Powers stated that the Chamber would like to get involved promoting the awards so we can get more votes this year. Chairperson Bobbitt stated there is a discussion with Robert Prunetti of the Mercer Chamber is having a meeting with Special Olympics to see about hosting the Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Lavine called Mark, Director of Special Olympics and was very interested because they will be getting publicity. Special Olympics has a very large conference room that seats 100+, also entertain hosting the breakfast and has their own caterer. Many organizations hold their meetings in the conference room.

Councilman Powers stated that it would be a great opportunity to have the awards at Special Olympics. Councilman Powers stated that Rider University is already booked; however they would understand. He was honored to be a speaker.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated to start thinking about nominations. Mr. Link asked that we are good with all the old categories. Mr. Link will send the spread sheet for the previous winners.

Meeting Speakers and Venues

Chairperson Bobbitt asked if we wanted to schedule any speakers in the next couple months or hold until September and it was decided to put it on hold until fall.

It was asked about Main Street to come in and speak about the card program. However, the Card program did not get the grant.

The awards ceremony was set by the Mercer Chamber and is scheduled for October 4th and the key thing is the speaker.

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Other Business:

The Colonial Bowling Lanes is doing improvements to the building, which is a very big project. Questions arose about the Brunswick Avenue redevelopment update. The funding cycle has been pushed; Mayor Puliti is meeting the Commission to stay on the funds. Our project is not a large scale amount. Looks like the project might begin in 2013.

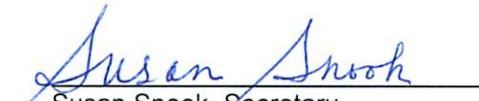
There was a brief discussion about the Craft Cleaners about how much of an eye sore it is; have taxes been paid? Can the building be demolished because it is very dangerous; the building is not boarded up anymore; kids keep going into the building. The condition of the building decreased the value of houses in the neighborhood.

Vice Chairperson Ryan gave a brief description of ways to create money to get it cleaned up and about revenue allocations. Vice Chairperson Ryan stated we discussed this two weeks ago and DEP has a lot of information on sites and we need to pull the information. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Charlie Lavine asked about the new small business and new large business; there is a time frame that we go back. Mr. Link said the time frame is one (1) year; we have gone back as far as 3; however it is 1 year.

The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Susan Snook, Secretary
Growth & Redevelopment Committee