

**GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
June 12, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at 6:40 p.m., held at Mrs. G's located at 2936 Brunswick Pike.

**I. 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.

**I. Roll Call**

The roll was called as follows at 6:40 p.m.:

Present: Christopher Bobbitt, Ryan Kennedy, Lovette Love-Stevens, Tushar Patel, Charles Lavine, John Conroy, John Schloesser, Don Addison

Excused Absence: Karen Vincent-Lavanga

Absent: Jags Vazirani, Donald Little, David Mizenko, William Zimmer, Kurt Koevenig, Michel Franc, Reza Asgari, Danielle Delprato, Deborah Cherry, Board of Ed Liaison, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School

Also Present: Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison, Susan Snook, Secretary, Noemi de la Puente

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

The May 8, 2012 minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. Speaker Noemi de la Puente**

Ms. de la Puente gave a presentation on single use bags. She asked the Board members the question "paper or plastic". The correct answer is neither. She stated that you should bring your own bags because it takes 14 million trees to make 10 billion paper bags and 12 million barrels of oil to make 100 million plastic bags. The average American uses 600 plastic bags a year.

There was a brief discussion about what businesses could do and it was stated that they can start to charge consumers a fee for the bags. Councilwoman Lewis asked where the money would go and it would have to go to the business. Mr. Lavine stated there are currently drop offs at stores such as Shop Rite and Wegmann's for plastic bags so they can be recycled and as well as 5 cents credit per reusable bag. There are some homeowners who re-use the plastic bags for garbage or some are recycled. A retailer pays between 3 and 7 cents for plastic and 7 & 21 cents for paper; the problem would be convincing a store to charge for bags.

The Township could do an ordinance for businesses to charge for the single use bags to consumers. However, Councilwoman Lewis stated they can tell a store they can charge tax, but we can not tell them to charge for a bag. Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated that either charging for the bags or banning the bags are a great idea; however his concerns are how to make sure our businesses are not put at a disadvantage compared to other surrounding towns, that small businesses may have to deal with people who are unable to pay the fee and that the Township may have a site for a larger business that may decide they don't want to deal with this kind of headache and go to the next A town. The more general issue is that the surcharge or requirement for a fee is regressive and might affect the lower income families more than someone else.

## GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2012

Page 2

Ms. de la Puente stated if someone had WIC money, there is no charge on the bags. Councilwoman Lewis stated Costco recycles their boxes where customers can use them to put their purchases in and Sam's does the same. Halo Farms bags are not a single use bag. Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked which is more effective, a fee or a total ban of single use bags; Ms. de la Puente stated a total ban would be the best for it to be effective; however, not sure how businesses would feel about it. Her idea is to create cooperation and collaboration between activists and merchants to approach the Townships together.

Ms. de la Puente stated if you charge a fee for a single use bag; consumers will not pay for a bag because it is so easy to get these plastic bags. Recycling does not have the success rate because recycling is very low on plastic bags. Plastic bags last forever because they do not decompose.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked what would be the next step. Ms. de la Puente stated she would like to give a presentation to retailers like the Quaker Bridge Mall, Shop Rite, Acme; the big bag generators, about plastic and paper bags. The Board could sign a letter and present it to the Township to institute an ordinance to charge for the bags or put an end to single use bags, or even a State wide policy.

Mr. Addison stated they donate appliances to Habitat for Humanity that still work and some are used for "art" like sculptures, etc. and their cardboard goes to the Mercer County for recycling. Ms. de la Puente stated she spoke with Pam Mount and attended the first meeting of the Sustainable Lawrence. It is the goal of Ms. de la Puente to get Township's to ban single use plastic bags.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked for Ms. de la Puente's contact information. Her cell number is 609.558.0026; e-mail is [NoemiDLP@yahoo.com](mailto:NoemiDLP@yahoo.com).

#### **IV. Awards Program (October 10):**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated we do not have a speaker yet. Jude from the Mercer Chamber of Commerce would have someone to speak; or we can suggest someone. It was suggested to have someone from Simone Realty of the Quaker Bridge Mall to be a speaker. First Choice has agreed to be a sponsor for the Mayor's Award and Stark & Stark will also sponsor an award (undecided at this time). John Conroy stated he still needs to reach out to Brandywine Realty and Roma Bank.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he will reach out to Shop Rite as well as Colonial Bowling Lanes. The Board needs eight (8) sponsors. Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked Mercedes Benz. Also suggested was Princeton Porsche; Parsons Brinckerhoff; Mrs. G's; Joe Canal's; Retro Fitness, State Farm Insurance.

Mr. Link stated nominations forms were distributed. The press release went out in late May; he also sent information to Committee members; Township Council; everyone on contact sheet; and will put forms at the Library. Councilperson Lewis will reach out Main Street.

There was a brief discussion about the sponsorship and what do they get out of it. It was stated that their name gets announced with the award and they present the award. There was a discussion about the sponsors to be able to display some type of banner.

Mr. Link stated he reached out to the person who does the bowls and she has agreed to do them again this year. Mr. Addison suggested maybe one time trying local artists; there are some at the Grounds for Sculpture; however, we should use someone who lives in Lawrence. Councilperson Lewis stated there is a Lawrence Artists group on Main Street. The cost of the bowl is \$80.00 and will depict Captain Lawrence's ship.

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2012

Page 3

**V. New Business Outreach:**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated there were not a lot of new businesses that came in. Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated we were going to do an action team, where once we have a new business come in and to have volunteers to meet with the business owner.

**VI. Route One Redevelopment**

There is currently no new information.

**VII. Business Visibility for 2014 Special Olympics**

No discussion.

**VIII. Joint Efforts with GEPNA**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he has not spoken with them lately and will reach out to see when they would like to meet.

**IX. Colonial Heights Civic Association**

Councilperson Lewis stated she received an e-mail from them with dates; however, she has not heard from her.

**X. Meeting Speakers and Venues**

Chairperson Bobbitt will see if our September meeting can be held at Colonial Lanes and will follow up with the retail consultant.

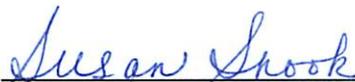
Mr. Addison suggested the restaurant Asian Fusion as another venue and will follow up with the Owner.

**XI. Other Business**

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on July 10, 2012.



Susan Snook, Secretary  
Growth & Redevelopment Committee