

**GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
April 8, 2014

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 6:36 p.m., at the First Constitution Bank, 150 Lawrenceville-Pennington Road.

**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 6:36 p.m.:

**Present:** Christopher Bobbitt, Lovette Love-Stevens, Tushar Patel, Charles Lavine, John Conroy, Danielle Delprato, Harold Nelson, Donald Addison, Kevin M. Ralph, Boynton R. Weekes, Andrew Bedryk

**Excused Absence:** Ryan Kennedy, Jose "Max" Ramos, Andrew Bedryk

**Absent:** Jags Vazirani, Karen Vincent, John Schloesser

**Also Present:** Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Cathleen Lewis, Mayor/Council Liaison; Susan Snook, Secretary

**Approval of Minutes:**

The March 11, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved with an amendment.

**New Member Introduction:**

Chairperson Bobbitt welcomed the new member, Kevin Ralph and introductions were made.

**Welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution Bank**

Megan Yaede, Branch Service Manager introduced herself. She stated there are 19 branches and is a full service bank (mortgages, home equity loans, commercial loans, checking accounts, business accounts).

**New Business Inventory:**

Mr. Ramos and Mr. Kennedy were not at the meeting; therefore, there is nothing new at the present time. The list dated April 2, 2014 from the Fire Marshal's list was discussed and Mayor Lewis stated they were all from the Quaker Bridge Mall.

Chairperson Bobbitt asked if any of the other Board members would like to be a part of the new business inventory and currently involved is Max Ramos and Ryan Kennedy. Mr. Weekes asked what is it? Chairperson Bobbitt stated the Township does not license businesses and there is no easy way to gage who is coming and going in the Township and we have Certificates of Occupancy which come through the Fire Marshal's Office (some are renewals and some are new, or change of ownership).

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Mr. Addison was going to go through Mid Jersey's list and the Princeton Chamber's. Messrs. Ramos & Kennedy will have to capture the rest of the businesses. Mr. Weekes wanted to know once the business is captured then what happens next. Mayor Lewis stated we are sending a letter to the new businesses, which is the first part, there are a lot of businesses that we have not had contact with. So if we had a comprehensive list, we might be able to do a we are here and we want to be helpful, know that we are the liaison to the business in town; but we need a list in order to do that. We might be able to utilize that list to create an e-mail list that we would be able to know about events and what is going on that we want them to be involved with.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated Mr. Addison gave him some feedback when he was doing some outreach through TCNJ's that he met with a lot of businesses for example there is a light industrial group of businesses at the very southern tip of town. Mr. Addison stated there are some (New York Avenue) that have been in business a long and have grown and expanded throughout the years.

Mr. Addison stated he also delivered the letters and will report on the responses and gave some business cards for the record. Chairperson Bobbitt stated this is a way to get a handle on what businesses are in Town. Mr. Weekes volunteered to be on the new business inventory committee.

### **Working with Princeton Regional Chamber:**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he did not have a chance to talk to Alan. Mr. Addison asked if Chairperson Bobbitt received the e-mail from Ursula Edwards. Jude Martin-Cianfano stated they have a partnership with Special Olympics and they are the only Chamber that has partnered with and everybody that comes to Town during Special Olympics, the 70,000 visitors that are staying in all the hotels are getting directed to the Mid-Jersey Chamber web site.

When they click on visitor and looking for a haircut, nails done, or anything, it goes to in the midst of the web site and that is about tourism. They are directed to the Chamber first and then other businesses and directing them where to go. Mr. Addison stated the conversation should be first between Chairperson Bobbitt and Ms. Edwards. Jude Martin-Cianfano stated to google "in the midst".

Jude Martin-Cianfano also stated about the cash mob and buy-local campaign. April Sette of Sette Solutions out of Robbinsville can help with a campaign and very good with media. Chairperson Bobbitt will reach out to Mid Jersey.

### **Awards Program:**

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he needs to get in touch with Bonefish and asked the Board members if they had any ideas on speakers. Mr. Lavine wants to know if there is a theme for this year or not. As of this time, there is none. Mayor Lewis stated if we found someone to talk about utilizing social media for businesses. Jude Martin-Cianfano stated that would be Ms. Sette and she has a great campaign. Chairperson Bobbitt will reach out to her.

### **Special Olympics:**

Chairperson Bobbitt asked Jude Martin-Cianfano is there is anything new with Special Olympics. Jude Martin-Cianfano stated how the Chamber will be promoting everyone locally and she has not heard anything about traffic direction.

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Mayor Lewis stated there was a special Mayor's meeting with Special Olympics (Hopewell, Ewing, Robbinsville, and Lawrence). The concerns were discussed especially traffic and alleviating people's concerns before it happens and the airport because there will be an airplane landing every 90 seconds. Mayor Lewis wanted to know the route of the torch because we would like to be involved. The State Police is handling a lot of it and would let us know as they knew the traffic pattern. Part of the issue is they are doing this at off peak hours so there will not be much of an inconvenience and Mayor Lewis strongly disagreed with them. Hopefully the Township will be getting the information soon so they can update residents.

Mayor Lewis continued that all the athletes are coming in all at one point during the day between 8:30 and 10:00, which will delay school buses; so they are looking at this and will let the Townships know. There is another meeting with the Mid Jersey Chamber, twice, to talk about those details on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jude Martin-Cianfano stated there is a big event on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt for a kick off which is informational. Mayor Lewis stated we need this information by May so we can plan and put articles in the paper. Mayor Lewis stated we should be thinking of the businesses and we should not be thinking of the businesses but for the athletes and their immediate family. What the difference is this time is that the immediate family is going to have an event every single night, this event is different, and most extended family was never able to come to the games. They are going to need things to do, like the Aunts and Uncles. Mr. Ralph stated Red Cross should be doing something and will look in to it, especially having responders.

The athletes arrive on June 12<sup>th</sup>; the Special Olympics is June 14 thru June 21. Vice Chairperson Bobbitt asked if Special Olympics will confirm all the information. Registration for volunteers is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other Business:**

Mr. Addison stated there is an address of 1051 Brunswick Avenue (Polish Connections) could not find anyone there so he left the letter in the mailbox (across from Man's World Gym).

Mrs. G's is re-locating to Worldwide Carpet effective April 15<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Addison passed out ribbon cutting invitations on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., this is her permanent location. The Mrs. G's site trees are being removed and the buildings are being demolished and a super Wawa with a gas station is approved for the site as well as a McDonald's, TD Bank and two vacant stores with rumors of a Wal-greens; Jude Martin-Cianfano mentioned Chick-Fil-A.

Mayor Lewis mentioned that the Crystal Diner is now the Route 1 Diner and the food was good. They had their grand opening and did internal renovations. The Board discussed about hosting an open house to other businesses with possible locations (1<sup>st</sup> Constitution, Amalfi's and open a vacant store front) so people can see the space. The date and time was also discussed with the possibility of sometime in June before Special Olympics.

Mr. Weekes, Mr. Conroy, Ms. Delprato and Ms. Martin-Cianfano are on the committee and the times that works is 5:30 – 7:30. Mr. Weekes will reach out to the owners of the Lawrence Shopping Center to see if they will host an event.

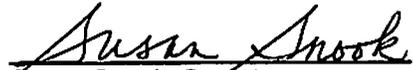
Mayor Lewis stated to invite GEPNA, Colonial Lake Association to the meet and greet. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated a good date is Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. It was mentioned that that is our meeting night.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2014.



Susan Snook, Secretary  
Growth & Redevelopment Committee

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