

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2014

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at 6:34 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 6:35 p.m.:

Present: Christopher Bobbitt, Ryan Kennedy, Lovette Love-Stevens, Charles Lavine, John Conroy, John Schloesser, Danielle Delprato, Max Ramos, Donald Addison Boynton R. Weekes, Karen Vincent, Jude Martin-Cianfano, Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce

Excused Absence: Howard Nelson, Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate

Absent: Tushar Patel, Jags Vazirani, Andrew Bedryk, Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor,

Also Present: Susan Snook, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

The August 12, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

First Constitution Bank would like the Board to meet at their facility on Lawrenceville-Pennington Road. Mr. Addison also stated that Fusion Asian would like our Board to meet at their facility.

Awards Program:

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he was having a difficult time reaching out to Collier and did not have a response. Mr. Weekes will try again on Wednesday and the owner, Collier was more upset about the article. Mr. Conroy will ask Mr. Fennelly as a back-up speaker. Mr. Ramos stated he knew a social media person who teaches at Rutgers University; however, the Board members did not think she would draw too many people. The key note speaker would be about ten minutes. Ms. Delprato stated what topic she would speak about (media or small business). Mr. Ramos stated her expertise would be small businesses and how social media would help their business.

The following Board members are presenters:

Mayor's Award:	Cathleen Lewis
New large Business Award:	Danielle Delprato
New Small Business Award:	John Conroy
Business Service Award:	Max Ramos
New Building/Renovation:	Charles Lavine
Podmore/Dwyer Historic:	Ryan Kennedy
Ralph Copleman Environmental:	Chris Bobbitt

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Awards Program:

The following members are attending the awards ceremony: Cathleen Lewis, Max Ramos; Danielle Delprato, Ryan Kennedy; John Conroy; Chris Bobbitt; Charles Lavine; Karen Vincent; Boynton Weekes

Ms. Martin-Cianfano requested a list of attendees for the Awards Program and stated we need to ask people now to speak next year. At the present time, there is no key note speaker and it is needed so that Mid-Jersey Chamber can market that.

Mr. Conroy stated to stick with the plan and ask Collier. Mr. Lavine states that the Lawrence Ledger normally covers the awards program. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated that someone needs to call Sheila. Mr. Conroy stated the Times has a Friday Feature of a Business and the Awards program might be able to be plugged into this; it is where it high lights a business. Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated there is a Shop Local pull out which is an advertising piece (shop 33, Hamilton, Debbie Schaffer, Robbinsville), they feature someone and we should jump on it and try to get Lawrence to have it. We need to have a pitch, it will come from the Lawrenceville Main Street and pull a couple of ads; but some leg work needs to be done to see if we can get a couple of people to back it up. It is an advertising companion.

New Business Inventory:

None

Sign Ordinance:

Chairperson Bobbitt asked the Board members what the biggest issue is with the sign ordinance. It is the number of signs, size of signs. Mr. Conroy stated he thinks it is temporary signs. Banners, flags, etc. are a big issue.

Ms. Delprato stated it should be the sign company making the signs should be responsible for checking about what size is permitted.

Mr. Addison stated that after a while it gets out of control. Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated if we are not going to make any recommendations to change the rules; maybe we can help. We should make recommendations to explore making some changes to it; however, we have a welcome effort and maybe part of that we can point people to the right things they can do without wasting money on signs which are not legal.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated our ordinance is 31 pages and we should get some feedback and then look at the other ordinances from the different townships. If it is temporary signs then we do not have to worry about sizes and permanent signs. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated is there something we can do for new businesses with signs.

The Board would like to have James Parvesse, the Zoning Officer to come and speak at the meeting to discuss issues with signs.

Mr. Lavine stated our ordinance is strict in certain areas where we will allow you so many square feet on the building, so many square foot signs on the side; by the entrance

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Other Business:

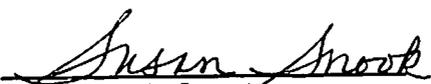
It was mentioned that we do not have a November meeting because it is Election Day and the Municipal Building is closed.

The regular scheduled meeting of October 14, 2014 is not cancelled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2014.


Susan Snook, Secretary
Growth & Redevelopment Committee