

Meeting of the
Economic Development Committee
January 18, 2016
6:30 pm

Members Present

Denton Burnell (CC)
Carrie Hawkins Charlton
Steve Malagari
Richard Strahm
Jason Van Dame

Absent

Doug DiPasquale, Denise Pitts, Andy Szekely

Also Present

Jake Ziegler, Borough Manager
John Ernst, Assistant Borough Manager
Mary Fuller, Borough Council and Discover Lansdale
Bruce Schwartz, Discover Lansdale
Helen Schwartz
Ray Liberto
Bill Allen
John Darab
Katie Van Houten
Dan Sokil

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Strahm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 16 meeting; Mr. Malagari seconded the motion. The Committee voted 4:0 to approve with Mr. Van Dame abstaining as he was not present at the meeting.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

Appointment of Officers

Mr. Malagari made a motion to name Jason Van Dame as the new EDC chairman; the motion was seconded by Mr. Strahm. The committee voted 5:0.

Ms. Hawkins Charlton made a motion to name Richard Strahm as the new EDC Vice Chairman; the motion was seconded by Mr. Malagari. The Committee voted 5:0.

Communication Coordinator Position

Mr. Van Dame shared that Tracy Flynn has returned to the Borough in the Communication Coordinator role and there has already been an increase in information to the public since her return.

November and December New Businesses

Since the last meeting there have been eight new businesses welcomed to the Borough; these businesses include ones that have applied for permits but have not opened to the public at the time of the meeting. The businesses include professional offices, barbershop change in ownership, consultant offices, antique shop, temporary office space, bakery and a health office.

Citizens for the Revitalization of Lansdale

Mr. Van Dame spoke of the increased participation of invested citizens through the group. All ideas are welcome and he encourages the group to continue supplying feedback for Council and the community. Mr. Burnell thanked Mr. Ray Liberto for helping to get the group to participate in local government.

Economic Development Vision for Lansdale

With the increased interest in the Borough's economic development, a discussion on what the Borough's vision is/should be took place. Items discussed included:

- Creation of a cohesive and comprehensive goals for revitalization so that all groups work toward the same end goal
- Definition of the word "revitalization"; it is a constant process that needs constant and consistent work
- Main Street Manager—single point of contact for existing and new businesses; the Community Development Department is handling this presently. Mr. Ernst will be meeting with a representative from Pennsylvania Downtown Center to provide guidance on what we have done and what we can do.

Business of the Month

Mr. Burnell will present the award to Lansdale Montessori School on Wednesday, January 20 during the Council Business Meeting. The school has been in Lansdale for over twenty years and serves numerous families in Lansdale as well as surrounding communities.

Upcoming Events

January 26 there will be a public meeting for discussion on the upcoming development project at 43 West Third Street, the former Third and Walnut Bar.

February 11 the PennSuburban Chamber and Discover Lansdale will cohost an event "Putting Lansdale on the Map" where local businesses and residents can mingle and meet.

COMMUNICATION COMMISISON UPDATE

Reorganization / EDC Delegates

Mr. Burnell shared that the Commission will meet on January 19 and reorganize. As Ms. Hawkins Charlton was appointed to the EDC as a Council representative, the Commission will need to name new delegates for the February meeting.

Website Redesign

The Commission will also discuss the possibility of a website redesign as part of the contract with Civic Plus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

****The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 2016****