



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

Members Present

Denton Burnell (CC)
Carrie Hawkins Charlton
Ray Liberto
Steve Malagari (arrived at 6:39 pm)
Bruce Schwartz
Richard Strahm
Jason Van Dame

Absent

Ellen Foulke
Mark Ladley (CC)

Also Present

Jake Ziegler, Borough Manager
John Ernst, Assistant Borough Manager
Dan Sokil
Bill Allen
Nancy Frei
Helen Harlow Schwartz

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Burnell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 28, 2016 meeting; Mr. Strahm seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6:0 to approve.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS:

June New Businesses

Mr. Van Dame announced that the Borough welcomed four businesses:

- Café V-Dal: Main Street
- North Penn Physical Therapy LLC: Broad Street
- Recharge Spa: Main Street
- Bennett Agency: Cannon Avenue



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Business of the Month

Mr. Strahm shared that Stove & Tap will be the recipient of the award for July 2016. In the short time they have been open in town, they have delivered a consistent product and have served as a draw for people in town as well as out of the Borough.

Discussion about the length of tenure for a business to be honored took place; committee and public comments included:

- Successful short term businesses illustrate what can be done in town
- Definition of "successful" can be subjective and can change quickly depending on the business
- There are previous recipients who weren't long tenured businesses that are no longer in business
- Making selections strictly on emotion could have led to selections of now defunct businesses
- Focusing on Main Street businesses does not help those businesses that aren't visible while driving in/through town
- There are many businesses in town that don't cater to retail so many citizens don't know they are in business and this gives them an opportunity to be showcased
- Previous honorees have shown an increase in business that may or may not be attributed to the coverage of being named
- While selections are made by committee members, the public is able to make suggestions via the Borough website

Mr. Van Dame asked that committee members look at the nomination details and criteria drafted document and be prepared to discuss further at the August EDC meeting.

Committee Goals

Mr. Van Dame shared that the Community Revitalization Task Force will be meeting on the fourth Monday of each month with the first meeting to be held on Monday, August 22. As the group meets, the details will be shared with the EDC.

Ms. Hawkins Charlton also reported that she reached out to the High School about the painting of Main Street windows and will have more to report once the school year begins.

BOROUGH EVENTS / DISCOVER LANSDALE EVENTS

Play in the Park (Friday, July 22 at 7:30pm)

The Parks and Recreation Department will hold their annual play in connection with Commonwealth Classic Theater Company featuring Moliere's Tartuffe.

Movie in the Park (Thursday, July 28 at dusk)



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The second Movie in the Park is the feature Max so grab a blanket and the popcorn.

Rescheduled Craig Thatcher Band Concert (Thursday, August 4 at 7pm)

After two rained out performances, the Parks Department will hold a special Thursday concert featuring the Craig Thatcher Band.

First Friday (August 5)

Discover Lansdale will welcome Jazz fusion group Dirk Quinn Band and Jeff Lohan along with the regular family friendly activities.

Children's Night Out (Monday, August 8 at 7pm)

Theatre and Kids will perform their Mountain Country Jack Tales in the White's Road Park band shell.

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Civics 101 Update

Ms. Hawkins Charlton shared that she has reached out to Detective Mike Trail and Judge Ed Lavine and have confirmed that there will be a second session in September. As the specific dates are confirmed, we will begin publicizing and get attendees.

Meeting Recording Update

Ms. Flynn reported that the Franchise Agreement with Comcast does include a grant for the setup of a government channel for roughly \$30,000. Staff is working with our Comcast representative to see how we go about obtaining that funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Strahm shared that our downtown is an attractive place and much of that is thanks to Borough employee Angie Walsh. Sadly, Angie passed away and she will be missed not only for her hard work, but for her dedication to Lansdale.

****The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 15, 2016****