

Growth & Redevelopment Committee
Lawrence Township, Municipal building

February 7, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, in the Lower Level Conference Room, located in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building.

There was no roll call. The meeting started at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Christopher Bobbitt, Ryan Kennedy, Lovette Love-Stevens, Charles Lavine, Reza Asgari, Danielle Delprato, Don Addison

Excused Absence: Tushar Patel, Karen Vincent-Lavanga.

Absent: Jags Vazirani, Donald Little, William Zimmer, Kurt Koevenig, Michel Franc, John Conroy, John Schloesser, Deborah Cherry, Board of Ed Liaison, Bruce Nahan, High School Liaison

Also Present: Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate; Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison; Susan Snook, Secretary, Rachel Stark, Chair of the Lawrence Chapter of Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, Jude Martin-Cianfano, Events Manager of Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Board did not have a quorum; however, the following was informally discussed:

There was a new member, Danielle Delprato; she introduced herself to the members. Cathleen Lewis, the new Council Liaison introduced herself to the members.

Mr. Link stated that we were thinking of changing the time of the meeting. The meetings usually start at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday. Mr. Link stated that Council has changed their meeting time to 6:30 p.m. and the Zoning Board changed their time to 7:00 p.m. so we are going to put it out there to the members changing the time. Mr. Link asked if 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month would work for Ms. Lewis. Ms. Lewis stated that either of the times would work fine for her.

Mr. Kennedy stated that having an earlier time may interest businesses in participating. Mr. Kennedy also explained the Awards Program that is a joint event. Ms. Martin-Cianfano, Events Manager for the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce stated that the Quaker Bridge Mall would like to host it in their new restaurant. If the restaurant is not completed by the Awards Program, there will be another store that could accommodate the breakfast. It was suggested that the Quaker Bridge Mall also be an honoree for the new business; also suggested that the Committee should have someone from Quaker Bridge Mall speak at the Awards Program.

Mr. Kennedy asked if there is any assistance the Board could give to the Chamber and Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated she want to present ideas to the Board for the breakfast and hopefully get new businesses to join the Chamber of Commerce and describe what the Chamber all about.

Mr. Kennedy also stated that the Board should help support and promote the Special Olympics being held in 2014. Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated that this is Mr. Prunetti's biggest mission is taking this in full swing and it will have an economic impact on all the businesses.

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Ms. Stark stated that there has not been much going on with the Lawrence Chapter. There is a meet the Mayor's lunch which will be held on May 2nd and the cost is \$35.00 at the IBEW Hall and will work with this Committee for the Awards Program.

Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated there is a welcome breakfast which will be held at the end of March for Rachel Stark and Lawrence businesses will be invited, even though they are not a member of the Chamber, the invitation will be extended.

Mr. Lavine asked about the Colonial Bowling Lanes and Ms. Martin-Cianfano stated they are members of the Chamber and the Chamber will have the ribbon cutting once the building is complete.


Mr. Kennedy asked if anyone has any suggestions on holding our meetings at any outside locations. The Committee has met with GEPNA at the Nature Center and maybe once the bowling alley is complete we can hold one of our meetings there, Ms. Lewis suggested the Lawrenceville Inn and Mr. Addison suggested Mrs. G's, which has a conference room.

Mr. Addison asked if there has ever been a focus on doing a study on the farms because there are a lot of vegetable farms located in Lawrence. Pam Mount is the State wide leader and she should know of every Lawrence Township entity. Mr. Addison stated we should promote local farms and make this information public. Mr. Link stated a member of the Board several years ago made a living out of this and worked with North East Organic Farmers Association and he knew how many farms are located in Lawrence.

Ms. Martin-Cianfano and Ms. Stark left the informal meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Link stated the next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. and hopefully will have a quorum to vote on a new change in time for the monthly meetings; but it will still be on the second Tuesday of each month. Mr. Asgari suggested voting on line to have the time changed; so Mr. Link stated he will send out an e-mail to see what the other members of the Board think of a time change to 6:30 p.m. It was also suggested that if the meetings are earlier, business might be able to attend the meetings.

The members who attended left at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2012.


Susan Snook
Secretary

SJS

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