

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 8, 2017

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room.

Statement of Adequate 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 and the Trentonian.

Roll Call:

Present: Ryan Kennedy
Lovette Love-Stevens
Charles Lavine
Joan Brame
Maria Connolly
John Odalen, Vice Chairperson
Peter Ferrone

Absent: Danielle Delprato
John Conroy
Max Ramos, Committee of Education Liaison

Excused Absence: Tushar Patel
Teresita Bastides-Heron

Also Present: Christopher Bobbitt, Council Liaison
Andrew Link, Liaison
Susan Snook, Secretary

Chairperson Odalen served as Chair and opened the meeting.

Minutes:

The June 13, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

None

Awards Ceremony (Selection of Award Winners):

The Committee members discussed the nominations for each category starting with the Mayor's Award. Mayor Maffei nominated The Lawrenceville School and Rider University. Councilman Bobbitt stated he spoke with the Mayor and he stated he chose Rider because of the fireworks and as well as the Mayor's Cup Soccer match between Notre Dame and Lawrence High School. The Lawrenceville School because of their contribution to get the inclusive playground complete. The playground that is at Central Park is for all different types of abilities. It was funded through the Township with matching funds from the County and then Lawrenceville School donated money. The Mayor was thinking two awards.

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Mr. Lavine wanted to hear from the nominee who nominated Main Street Music in the Park (Weeden Park). Ms. Clark was present and stated it has been going on for over 20 years, it is a staple for what a lot of people do in the summer, it is grant funded through the Lawrenceville Community Foundation and as well as the Prep School as well as other sponsors. It is a nice community event for people to go to. The park is a beautiful property and it gives artists an opportunity to perform their music. It is family oriented and restaurants come in and serve food.

Mr. Kennedy asked if this nomination could be put into any other category. The committee did not feel it fit any other category.

New Small Business: The nomination was Centercourt Club at Lawrenceville, LLC.

Mr. Lavine stated it is the Dome and they are not a small business, they have 10 or 12 locations in North Jersey. They are trying take the property from Coleman Buick and will be putting in retail businesses. It is certainly unique and different and filling a need and qualify for a Business Service because they located there because the Boys and Girls Club is next door and it is a direct tie into one to the other. It is used by schools and groups and a tremendous regional asset.

Vice Chairperson Odalen asked the Committee if they had an issues with qualifying for the Small Business Award, not a vote. They have 37 employees including part time instructors.

New Business Renovation: The nominations were Valet Auto Wash, TMC Properties and Terhune Orchards (new winery barn).

Mr. Lavine commented that he did a visit to the TMC Properties and stated the business is not open, just a shell of a building and is 5,000 sf.

The Committee discussed Terhune Orchards and it is the barn on the far left beyond the main house. The tasting room was done this year. He recommended the Porsche Dealership on Route 1 which took over the Denny's site and built a new showroom. He also nominated Mr. Vernon who took the furniture store in back of the Wawa and converted it into a Valet Auto Wash. The committee stated it is an amazing car wash and you sit in your car while your car is getting washed and it sits back from Route 1.

There was no objection by the Committee members on adding the two nominations from Mr. Lavine.

Podmore/Dwyer Historic: The nominations were Ian Burrow of BurrowintoHistory, LLC and Every Child Valued.

Ms. Clark nominated Every Child Valued and stated it has a lot of history behind it. It has been there for the kids and a good service for the community. However, the Committee stated they do not fit the category. Vice Chairperson Odalen opened the floor to the Committee to give the award to Ian Burrow of BurrowintoHistory. It was asked if anyone knows Mr. Burrow and Mr. Link stated he is very enthusiastic and has been an asset to the Township and does well beyond what he gets paid for.

Ralph Copleman Environmental Award: The nominations were Junior Girl Scout Troup 70019.

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Ms. Clark stated it is her daughter's Girl Scout troop and have three troop leaders. The effort was cleaning up waters in our area and one activity was to stream walk and cleaned up the Shabakunk Creek. It is part of conserving and giving back to your community and importance of conserving the earth.

The committee did not have an issue with the nomination and the Board took a vote.

Vice Chairperson Odalen went back to the New Building renovation award and the nominations were Valet Auto Wash; TMC Properties and Terhune Orchards. Ms. Brame commented that Valet Auto Wash meets the criteria and was opened to vote.

New Small Business Award: Centercourt Club Sports at Lawrenceville, LLC, and the Committee took a vote.

Ms. Connolly stated for a New Large Business is Costco which has been successful and opened last year. The Committee took a vote. Mr. Kennedy stated under Business Service Award may consider Terhune Orchard for that category because of the new building and does a lot for the community. He also nominated Richard Krawczun because he has helped a lot of businesses in the Township. However, it was stated this award is for a business and not a single person. Ms. Brame nominated Willis Greenhouses for Business Service Award and the Committee commented it is family owned, has been there many years, do the flowers for Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church, flowers for the concert at Weeden Park and always hire school students.

Mr. Lavine stated he is appreciative for what Pam and Gary have done for the community; however, Joan and Joe Willis have never been recognized for anything. The vote was Willis – 7 ayes and 1 nay.

Vice Chairperson Odalen went to the Mayor's Award. Mr. Kennedy stated should we take the suggestion of the Mayor and doing two awards. The Committee discussed two awards and some thoughts were large organizations not receiving the award; however, they have been helpful. The music in the park was discussed. Councilman Bobbitt stated the Mayor wants two awards.

The award winners are as follows:

Mayor's Award:	The Lawrenceville School and Rider University
New Large Business Award:	Costco
New Small Business Award:	Centercourt Club & Sports
Business Service Award:	Willis Greenhouses
Residential Award:	None
New Building/Renovation Award:	Valet Auto Wash
Podmore/Dwyer Historic Award:	Ian Burrow of BurrowIntoHistory, LLC
Ralph Copleman Environmental Award:	Junior Girl Scout Troop 70019

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New Business:

Vice Chairperson Odalen stated Mr. Conroy reached out to the Chamber and was going to check with Ms. Mount and then to figure out a date. The date will be confirmed with the Chamber and is tentatively Wednesday, October 11, 2017 and tentatively will be held at Terhune Orchards.

Mr. Nerwinski will be the key note speaker.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Snook
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: 9/12/17