

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, November 14 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: 6:39 p.m.

Present: Lovette Love-Stevens
John Conroy, Chairperson
Joan Brame
Maria Connolly
Teresita Bastides-Heron
John Odalen, Vice Chairperson
Peter Ferrone

Absent: Danielle Delprato
Max Ramos, Committee of Education Liaison

Excused Absence: Ryan Kennedy
Tushar Patel
Charles Lavine
Christopher Bobbitt, Council Liaison

Also Present: J. Andrew Link, Liaison
Susan Snook, Secretary

2018 Meeting Schedule:

The 2018 Meeting Schedule was approved per unanimous vote.

Chairperson Conroy stated he asked Councilman Bobbitt if the appointments for the Committee could go from February 1 to February 1 and wanted to know if anyone heard anything. Mr. Link stated he did not hear anything. This is so the Committee does not miss a month.

Public Comment:

None

Minutes:

The September 12, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved

Awards Program:

Chairperson Conroy stated he thought everything worked out well. The venue worked better this time around than the last time at Brio. He was also worried about the stage but that seemed to work okay. He continued that one of things was when the members were trying to get award sponsors that he received a lot of comments that they spent their working allowance, so we might want to start extra early next year, maybe in February or March to get on people's calendar's and in their budget and maybe up the ante to like \$325 for an award, but if you pay early it would only be \$300 to get the money up front and have it sitting there instead of trying to collect after the fact.

Chairperson Conroy asked if Mr. Link or I if we heard if anyone has applied to be a member of the Committee. Mr. Link stated he will make an inquiry but he does not know. Chairperson Conroy stated it is a struggle for us to get quorums, so as homework for the next meeting in December that the Committee members could come with the name of one person who they can recommend to be the Committee.

Chairperson Conroy asked the secretary to send out the application form to the Committee with the reminder that everyone come with one applicant. Ms. Connolly asked someone who is interested or someone who has not been asked yet. Chairperson Conroy commented people who are interested and people who ideally live in town or own a business in town, who are more invested in coming to the meetings.

Chairperson Conroy asked the members if there were any more comments about the awards. Ms. Connolly asked if the Girl Scouts received their award, and she was informed that will on the 18th at the School Board meeting. Mr. Link stated Max Ramos picked up the bowl. The Board members spoke about the pictures of the Awards Ceremony and Mr. Link stated there was someone there from Rider University who took pictures and he did share a few of them and he sent them out as a press release.

Ms. Connolly asked about soliciting for new members on our Facebook Page. Chairperson Conroy stated we should check with Councilman Bobbitt about that. It should state that the Growth & Redevelopment Committee is looking for members who live in the Township or have a business in the Township. Vice Chairperson Odalen asked if we could do anything about the people who are supposed to attend the meeting from other committees but they do not show up. Chairperson Conroy asked about the other committees and who do we have. Mr. Link stated Teresita Bastides-Heron from the Environmental Committee; Maria Connolly from Planning Board; Charles Lavine from Zoning Board and Councilman Bobbitt, Liaison from Council, and Trails and Open Space which has a member slot to this committee but has not appointed someone in a while.

Ms. Bastides-Heron will ask Paul Larson and Joan Plumb; Chairperson Conroy suggested the owner of Litho Car Wash. The Committee has two business and one residence opening. Chairperson Conroy stated to ask around and if each person can bring in an applicant and send it to Mr. Link and Sue. Ms. Brame stated there are three new businesses at the Lawrence Shopping Center, a barber shop, the pet store and a bakery. Ms. Brame will ask someone from the Lawrence Shopping Center.

Ms. Love-Stevens suggested Main Street and CollaborationCore; Mr. Ferrone suggested Rider University or any of the schools; Ms. Connolly suggested someone from Mrs. G's or someone else from there.

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Chairperson Conroy stated at the December 12th meeting bring the form filled out by an applicant. Chairperson Conroy stated to the Mr. Link about the people who do not show up at the meetings who are on the roster and Mr. Link stated Daniel Delpratos' membership is up at the end of the year, so that resolve that; where everyone else attends. The justification for sending a letter is when you do not attend at least three meetings, which are considered absent. Mr. Link stated there has not been any pressure to do anything because we have so many vacancies on this committee so it is not like we have people waiting in line.

Other Business:

Ms. Bastides-Heron handed out a flyer, copy attached.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan J. Snook
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: December 12, 2017