

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, September 12, 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: Lovette Love-Stevens
Charles Lavine
John Conroy, Chairperson
Maria Connolly
Teresita Bastides-Heron
John Odalen, Vice Chairperson
Peter Ferrone

Absent: Tushar Patel
Danielle Delprato
Max Ramos, Board of Education Liaison

Excused Absence: Joan Brame
Ryan Kennedy
Andrew Link, Liaison

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

Minutes:

The August 8, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved per all changes.

Public Comment:

None

Awards Ceremony:

Chairperson Conroy told the Board members that we need to start obtaining sponsors and he has reached out to Mrs. G's and he did not get a response yet. He also was hoping that he would get some contact information from Councilman Bobbitt and Mr. Link.

Mr. Lavine asked if the Chamber did not want to look into getting sponsors. Chairperson Conroy responded that the Chamber was losing money on this event and one of the reasons they were losing money was because they were finding it difficult to find sponsors and felt we had a little bit of a better track record. Mr. Lavine commented that we never had any trouble getting sponsors. Chairperson Conroy stated our sponsorships are at \$300 and who knows what the Chamber was asking and stated we could go back to our old ways and look for sponsors and he will guarantee they will all be Chamber members. He continued we are also limited to where we can hold the event, Green Acres was over the budget and they came up with Brio, since the initial idea dissolved.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Page 2

Confirmation of Guest Speaker (Kevin P. Nerwinski)

Chairperson Conroy stated if we had confirmation that Kevin Nerwinski was the key note speaker at the Awards Ceremony and there was confirmation that he was through an e-mail.

Selection of Award Presenters

Chairperson Conroy stated he is assuming the Mayor is going to present the Mayor's award (Lawrenceville School and Rider University) and it was confirmed by Councilman Bobbitt.

Ms. Bastides-Heron stated she will present the award to Willis Greenhouses (Business Service Award) because they are in the GEPNA neighborhood.

Mr. Lavine stated he will present Costco (New Large Business Award).

Mr. Kennedy will present Centercourt Club & Sports (New Small Business Award).

Chairperson Conroy stated he will present Valet Auto Wash (New Building/Renovation Award).

Ms. Love-Stevens stated she will present Ian Burrow of BurrowintoHistory, LLC (Podmore/Dwyer Historic Award).

Ms. Connolly stated she will present Junior Girl Troop 70019 Award (Ralph Copleman Environmental Award).

Chairperson Conroy stated Mr. Link will give him all the contact information. Councilman Bobbitt will see if he can get the name for Quaker Bridge Mall; Chairperson Conroy will reach out to Investors and Mrs. G's; Mr. Lavine will reach out to Stark and Stark and Wawa and Ms. Snook will reach out to Ryan Kennedy to ask BMS to see if they would sponsor both awards; if not see if BMS will do a big business.

The prices for the sponsorship is \$350 for the Mayor's Award and \$300 for the balance. Chairperson Conroy stated to also tell the sponsors that they have one minute to say something, the award winner and the sponsor's speak.

The members attending the Awards Ceremony: Maria Connolly; Charlie Lavine; Ryan Kennedy; John Conroy; Councilman Bobbitt; Lovette Love-Stevens; Teresita Bastides-Heron and Peter Ferrone. John Odalen stated he cannot make it.

Cancellation of October 10, 2017 Meeting

The Committee took a vote and it was a unanimous vote to cancel the meeting.

Other Business:

Councilman Bobbitt stated to the Committee that the State is working on a liquor license (alcoholic liquor license) that would be a permit based license and it would be for restaurants that of a certain size in square footage, so it would not be for chains. It would be more for your mom and pop and it would allow them to sell beer, wine and potentially spirits, only at a table, not at a bar area.

Ms. Bastides-Heron stated this liquor license is going to allow the restaurant to serve liquor and the people will not have to bring their own bottle. Councilman Bobbitt continued that the idea is that it is only going to apply for redevelopment areas or more across the board. Councilman Bobbitt asked if the Committee would be willing to make a recommendation that he could take to Council for a resolution. He stated it would be in support of all local businesses being able to sell.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Page 3

Councilman Bobbitt explained that part of the money would come to the Township, it is a yearly permit, and if it gets out of control the Township can say you are done. It is not a permanent thing; part of the money goes to tax abatement for those who have liquor licenses to make them a little bit more whole, thinking they might lose a little bit of business. He continued that the idea is that you are not creating sports bars or Dave and Buster's.

Mr. Ferrone wanted to know how it will affect the bars that have existing licenses. Councilman Bobbitt stated part of the fee would go back to the State and they would get some sort of tax abatement to help them because their liquor license is not going to be as valuable in some regards. It is still being negotiated on who gets what and where. The Board took a vote and it was 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Ms. Love-Stevens spoke about Community Day being held on October 1 and we used to have a table and what other departments are being presented there. Councilman Bobbitt stated normally Recreation, Health, Police and Public Works will be there. The Committee stated we do not have the staff to be there, nothing to hand out. Ms. Love-Stevens stated we should have something there to let the businesses know we are here to help them and maybe have a sign in sheet. Mr. Lavine stated it is more of a family thing and would get owners of businesses but not interested in talking about what we are doing at that type of event, it is like an opening day for the soccer league. Mr. Lavine stated we should make brochures to hand out. It was suggested to have a poster and that we have our Awards Ceremony. Ms. Bastides-Heron volunteered to have the poster at her table.

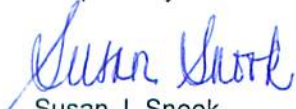
Vice Chairperson Odalen stated to change the categories or guidelines for getting more businesses in, whether you live here or not and shifting the period from January to January because the committees have not met yet. Chairperson Conroy stated from February to February because January to January does not work. Chairperson Bobbitt will try to get it done.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Snook
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: Nov. 14, 2017