

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
March 12, 2019

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6:38 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
Tushar Patel (left at 7:17 p.m.)
Charles Lavine
Robert Pluta
Joan Brame
Maria Connolly
Teresita Bastides-Heron
Peter Ferrone
Brian Vaughn
Melissa Clark
Andrew Frank
Chris LaFlamme
Hannah Rhoades

Absent: None

Excused Absence: Ryan Kennedy

Also Present: Andrew Link, Liaison
Christopher Bobbitt, Council Liaison
Cathy LeCompte, School Board Liaison
Susan Snook, Secretary

Welcome of New Member:

The Committee members introduced themselves stating their profession and where they reside.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Conroy who was in the audience asked if he could make a statement. He commented as a former Committee member he would like the Committee to highly consider Robert Pluta as the next Chairperson. Mr. Pluta who runs a successful small business in the Township would be a great value to the community as the next Chairperson.

Mr. Link opened the floor for nominations of Chairperson. Mr. LaFlamme nominated Robert Pluta for Chairperson and was seconded by Ms. Bastides-Heron.

Ms. Brame nominated Charles Lavine and was seconded by Maria Connolly.

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Nominations were closed and the vote was seven for Mr. Pluta and five for Mr. Lavine.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Love-Stevens nominated Mr. Lavine for Vice Chairperson and seconded by Joan Brame. Mr. Pluta nominated Ms. Connolly for Vice Chairperson and seconded by Mr. Ferrone.

Nominations were closed and vote was five for Mr. Lavine and seven for Ms. Connolly.

Minutes:

The December 11, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: None

Committee Goals:

Ms. Connolly suggested that we should finalize the sign ordinance changes and they will be sent to Mr. Parvesse, Ms. Kraemer and Mr. Nerwinski.

Ms. Brame asked if it was ever decided what to do about the Awards Program. Mr. Link responded that it was never decided positively, so the Committee needs to make that absolutely clear on moving forward and would like to Committee to decide, in the near future, if they want to proceed with the Awards Program. Mr. LaFlamme commented that he believed at the last meeting, that the Committee will move forward with the Awards Program and consolidate a few things to make it more business centric.

Mr. Ferrone stated all the awards are up for discussion and nothing has been finalized. The Committee is to look at all the awards and see where it makes sense moving forward with keeping this Committee's goals and purpose in mind because we did drift away from some of these awards.

A discussion on the price of the bowls, which are \$85.00 apiece and another \$15.00 for the engraving of the plaque; business contributions were \$250.00 and the Mayors award was \$300.00. The bowls were \$595.00; the engraving \$174.00; miscellaneous expenses \$32.00 and \$2,337.00 to rent the hall for a total of \$3,140.00. The committee has a budget of \$2,500.00, which tides the Committee over to pay the bills. The sponsorships received was \$2,200.00 and ticket sales were \$725.00 for a total of \$2,925.00 and the \$100.00 difference was paid for by the Township.

Chairperson Pluta stated if we are making enough money why we wouldn't continue with the Awards Program. It was commented that the last Chairperson wanted to scrap it because he thought it was not going to happen anymore. The Board discussed the Princeton Chamber not being interested in stepping in and filling in the void so there may not be any Chamber collaboration this time and might be all on the Committee.

Ms. Love-Stevens mentioned right now we are only doing the Awards Ceremony and the sign ordinance, what else is the Committee doing and suggested that for the benefit of the new members that Mr. Link read what our Committee is about so we can come up with some ideas on what we could be doing to further our goals. Ms. Brame stated the Committee discussed about having businesses come in and have some type of open house for a meet and greet at this facility.

It was suggested to reach out to the businesses and invite the owners here to attend our meeting for questions and how we can help them.

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The Committee discussed how to get businesses to attend our meetings such as talking to the owners of the business and invite to them our meeting; putting the Committee information on our web site and Facebook page. Ms. Brame asked to send out the goals of the Committee to the members. Mayor Bobbitt referred to our web-site and it stated that our mission is to advise the Council on matters pertaining to economic development and redevelopment in the Township. The Committee looks for and values members that take an active interest in the health of local business community through a variety of programs and initiatives. The Committee strives to support and promote the people and organizations that make the Township a great place to do business. It makes recommendations on programs and activities to promote and redevelop; consistent with the Master Plan and land development ordinance.

Ms. Brame asked if we could review the goals and re-do them. The Mayor suggested to put something together and figure out what you want to do this year and on how to benefit everyone in the Township. Chairperson Pluta summarized that we want to get businesses here and put on our Facebook Page and to put something on our nixel page to invite business owners to our meetings.

Ms. Connolly stated to invite two businesses to our next meeting and she will stop by Café DuPain and Mr. Frank will invite Gingered Peach.

Awards Program:

Mr. LaFlamme stated there is a hodge podge of awards; Ms. Clark stated the categories need to be looked at especially the Environmental and we shift a lot of them around. Ms. Love-Stevens read the ordinance pertaining to the Growth & Redevelopment Committee, copy attached.

Chairperson Pluta stated we are going ahead with the Awards Ceremony, going to re-vamp the categories; more advanced marketing; keep the location the same. Mr. Link stated it was Green Acres every year and the Chamber found it too expensive so they started moving us away from that and the Chamber brought us back there; however, if the price is okay then we can accommodate it. The others locations were Brio, Quaker Bridge, Boys N Girls Club, Rider University, CollaborationCore.

Chairperson Pluta asked Mr. Link to e-mail the awards categories and at the next meeting re-define them.

Sign Ordinance:

Ms. Connolly discussed the changes regarding the A-frame signs in certain locations, because they are only allowed in certain zones in the Township (Eldridge Park and Main Street) and neighborhood center and commercial and historic districts. The A-frame signs are not allowed in the Lawrence Shopping Center or Mercer Mall and many of the businesses there would like to put out an A-frame sign. So it was recommended to make a change to the Land Development Ordinance to allow the A-frame signs permitted in the Shopping centers and highway zone; however, no on Quakerbridge Road and not on Route , copy attached. The Committee took a vote and it was approved per unanimous vote.

Other Business:

Ms. Bastides-Heron mentioned the Green Fest will is being held at Rider University on Saturday and there will be 90 businesses there.

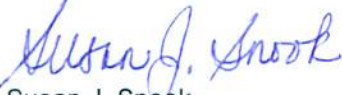
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Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Snook
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: April 9, 2019