

Lawrence Township Growth and Redevelopment Committee

February 11, 2025

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The following are the minutes of the Growth and Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday February 11, 2025 at 7:00pm. Minutes were taken by Kelly Edelstein.

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.

Roll call:

Present:

Peter Ferrone
Melissa Clark
Joan Brame
Stavros Papafilipakis
Jeremy Ryan
Edward Garcia
Edward Freeland
Maria Connolly
Michele King

Not Present:

Charles Levine
Jeff Radice

Also Present:

Kelly Edelstein, Staff Liaison
Olympia I'Liou Perry, Council Liaison

Motion for a Chairperson:

Jeremy Ryan nominated Melissa Clark for Chairperson of the committee. The motion was seconded by Peter Ferrone. The vote was unanimously approved.

Motion for a Vice Chair:

Joan Brame nominated Ed Freeland for Vice Chairperson of the committee. The motion was seconded by Stavros Papafilapakis. The vote was unanimously approved.

Minutes:

Minutes from the October 8th, 2024 meeting were approved.

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Discussion of the Networking Event

- One negative feedback from a member of the public (not enough networking, speaker too long winded).
- How can we improve the experience for attendees? Add actual networking time, allow for introductions.
- Olympia offered to reach out to Anthony Carabeli about assisting with a future event. Jeremy suggested we reach SCORE.
 - Next event: April 23rd or 30th, 2025 From 5:30 to 7pm
 - Request space at the Lawrence Library

Discussion of Committee Mission Statement

- Jeremy will send out proposed mission statement.
- Do we want to approve now or after the Master Plan is finalized?

Update from Michele King, School Board Representative

- Referendum vote on March 11th. Michele offered brochures and yard signs to share with friends and neighbors.
- We discussed how the board representative will function on this committee. Should it be just providing updates or something more substantial?
- Michele offered to connect the committee with DECA chairs to involve students

Subcommittee Assignments:

Ed Freeland and Melissa Clark will form a subcommittee for the upcoming networking events. All members will be invited to attend if desired.

Update from Council Liaison, Olympia I'Liou Perry

- Municipal tax will remain flat this year.
- Council and the Mayor are looking for a non-profit to be a part of the new recreation center.
- The new fire study has 7 bids from all over the country. Will make a recommendation for a group to do the survey by April.
- Discussion on marijuana dispensaries and the impacts both positive and negative.

New Business:

- Peter discussed a podcast with the manager of the Trenton Farmers Market. Peter would like to invite him to the March meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.