

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
April 8th, 2025
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The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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:

Jeremy Ryan
Michelle King, School Board Liaison
Maria Connolly
Edward Garcia
Melissa Clark, Chairperson
Joan Brame
Edward Freeland, Vice Chairperson

Absent:

Peter Ferrone

Excused Absence:

Stavros Papafilipakis

Also Present:

Olympia I'Liou Perry, Council Liaison
Jeffrey Radice, Secretary
Kelly Edelstein, Staff Liaison

Minutes:

March 11, 2025 minutes were approved.

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April Networking Event – Finalizing Plans

The subcommittee for the networking event will plan to meet next week to finalize small details. Anthony Carabelli has confirmed that he will be in attendance and guest speaking. The time has been locked in and the event will be held from 5:30 to 7pm at the Mercer County Lawrence Library. The group spoke about the different types of ways to promote the event over the next few weeks, which included Facebook, Instagram and flyers with a QR code.

Student Representative Update:

The student representative position on the committee was tabled at the previous council meeting. Council had questions about how the committee would choose the student and the guidelines for being selected. The Chairperson of the GRC will be speaking at the next council meeting to clarify and lay out the guidelines.

The group spoke about what qualifications would be necessary for the student to apply. They agreed that the student must be a Lawrence resident and attend school in Lawrence.

A small committee was formed to interview the applicants. The group also discussed how to promote the position. The committee thought it was best to send school wide emails, utilize social media, put it in the virtual backpack and publicize it on the morning announcements.

Update from Council Liaison, Olympia I'Liou Perry:

Councilwoman Perry updated the group on her efforts to promote the upcoming networking event. She gave an update on the Juneteenth event that will be held on June 18th at the Municipal Building. Council is looking to fill the vacancies on the Growth and Redevelopment Committee. There is no update on the Master Plan.

Other Business:

The committee spoke about tabling the Mission Statement discussion to a later meeting after the networking event is complete. The next time the group meets they decided that the majority of the meeting should be dedicated to that topic.

There were talks by the group that there may not be enough members present for the May meeting to have a quorum. People are either out of town or attending a different community meeting.

The school referendum passed the vote from the residents. The school also received a \$75k grant for developing AI practices and procedures. Pre-school initiative numbers are growing and being funded through state grants.

Public Comment:

A resident was in attendance for the meeting and presented her career and personal background to the committee. She asked some questions regarding the upcoming networking event. She also asked the group what their greatest accomplishments have been over the past few years as a committee. The GRC responded with some of the tasks they have completed such as: the 'Shop Lawrence website', Award Ceremony and the Business Manual. She inquired about the committees in town following the Robert's Rules of Order.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Radice
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: _____