

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
July 9th, 2024
Page 1

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 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
Stavros Papafilipakis
Joan Brame
Peter Ferrone
Melissa Clark, Chairperson
Michele Bowes, School Board Liaison

Absent:

Charles Lavine, Zoning Board Representative

Excused Absence:

Edward Freeland
Maria Connolly, Vice Chairperson
Alan Di Sciallo
Kelly Edelstein, Staff Liaison
Olympia l'Liou Perry, Council Liaison

Also Present:

Jeffrey Radice, Secretary

Minutes:

May 14, 2024 minutes were approved.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

July 9th, 2024

Page 2

Mission / Charter Statement Discussion:

The subcommittee for the mission/charter statement for the GRC met during the time off between May and July. They were able to make a report with some of their findings from other township's Growth and Redevelopment (or similar) committees.

There was a consensus from the group that the Lawrence Township GRC should not make any type of statement final until the Master Plan fills in the verticals of the committee. The statement is not ready for publish yet because there has not been input from the public yet.

The group discussed the renaming of the committee, but there was no conclusion. The next step is to gather the viewpoints on the Master Plan document and sit down with most or all of the committee to discuss.

Award Ceremony Recap / Preliminary Planning:

The committee discussed the direction that they want to take the Award Ceremony for the future. Once the mission/charter statement is complete it will give more shape and a clearer focus to the next award ceremony. The committee spoke about adding an "Technology Award".

The group discussed how they plan to use the Master Plan to sculp the awards and descriptions/criteria for winning.

Ideas for Future Meeting Locations:

During the meeting the committee spoke about where they would like to hold upcoming meetings. Some of the businesses that were mentioned were: Masa 8, Rita's, China Chef, Melbas, US Mr. Ice Cream and more. The group also spoke about possibly holding a meeting at one of the schools in town.

Update from Council Liaison, Olympia I'Liou Perry:

Absent.

Other Business:

The LTPS School Board liaison spoke about the rollout for the Lawrence Middle School referendum. The rollout will start in September and plans were submitted to the state on June 12th.

The committee found an interest in dissecting the business model for a local ice cream shop.

The group discussed coming up with a possible query to the Town Council and officials regarding the 'x'ed out businesses in town. They would like to discuss how they can help formulate a plan to reinvigorate these locations. The committee asked if they can help change the rent in the mall in order for businesses to be able to afford space. There were also questions posed as to why the township cannot take over the vacant business locations.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
July 9th, 2024
Page 3

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Radice
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: _____