

April 28, 2011 - UMBT Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendees

Joe Battillo (JB)	Tony Orlando (TO)	<u>Job Descriptions</u>
Sue DeGenaro (SD)	Cheryl Rodger (CR)	Ron Kacsmarik - Website
Ed DeMelio (ED)	Antoni Scott (AS)	Antoni Scott - Chairperson
Ron Kacsmarik (RK)	Carol Scott (CS)	Sue DeGenaro - Recorder

Visitors: Terry Teel and David Norwillo

- The use of a tape recorder for future meetings was approved by all committee members
- SD read the short version of minutes from the previous nights Portland EDC meeting. CR suggested that the committee should work with Portland as they pay taxes into the school system - SD also mentioned that Portland is a gateway to UMBT and should be supported
- JB said that water/sewer expansion should be looked at again for the 611/512 business corridors and sees the need to design the township water/sewer ordinances with business expansion in mind
- All agreed that short-term plans should include signage for existing businesses-- if possible, standardized to match existing signage -- identifying UMBT destination points
- JB mentioned that GenOn may take their land off the market and that the chances of the GenOn plant closing are good -- SD suggested that the plant be retrofitted for solar or biomass power production and that Penn State is doing coal to solar conversion projects -- TO stated that there is a question as to whether the facility is too old to retrofit
- CS mentioned the possibility of creating Agri-tourism in the township to include the Xmas Tree Farm, Vineyard and B & B, etc. SD suggested that the committee invite farm owners to a future meeting and presented an outline of a booklet on how to develop agri-tourism
- All members agreed to mail a questionnaire to existing businesses to invite them to a future meeting for a Q & A session -- CS and AS suggested inviting the major employers; Ultrapoly (JB will call), Voltaix, Lamtec, Custom Laminating, and the new chicken processing company Omitron (CS will call)
- JB and TO said that we need to focus in on what kind of businesses we want for UMBT
- Zoning/regulations for signage was discussed and JB mentioned that signage on the state roads may be an issue because of PennDot regulations. The committee will contact Joe Emrick to discuss signage issues on 611, if needed
- ED estimated that approximately 15,000 cars per day pass through UMBT
- ED mentioned that traffic speeds through town and because of business sign placement regulations, drivers are unable to see his business until they are on top of it and that perhaps if they were going slower, they would have time to stop. SD suggested that speed could be controlled in that section of 611 by installing a light at the 611/512 intersection -- JB described the process by which lights are approved/installed and that the light would cost the township approx. \$100,000
- ED said we need to address the promotion of the township (Marketing Plan?) JB suggested a marketing option called a "passport" that is stamped at various businesses
- SD said that when the park is completed part of it should be used for various fundraising/tourism functions such as; jazz in the park, art festivals, etc.
- Terry Teel mentioned the TIF Bonds available for blighted areas, with Portland in mind -- this bond is set up to be paid back with future tax revenue.
- All members see the need to revive infrastructure in UMBT
- JB asked that all members bring their suggestions for short and long-term goals to the next meeting
- SD will contact Maureen Sterner re: 501 c3 use for grant work
- SD will file EDC minutes for inclusion into BoS minutes after approval by the committee at the next meeting
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 26 at 7pm -- on the agenda for next meeting will be:
 - Discussion of Action Plan, public questionnaire, agri-tourism guide and map, web design, signage regulations, grant objectives, and next steps
 - Informal presentation by Bob Cartwright, Township Zoning Officer (JB will call) and Rick Fisher, Sewage Enforcement Officer (AS will call) on township zoning, and commercial and industrial parcels available in UMBT
- The meeting adjourned at 9:30