

Robbinsville Economic Development Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Paul Rubin, *Chairman*; Elizabeth Meyers, *Vice-Chairman*; Daniel Jackson, *Recording Secretary*; Councilwoman Sheree McGowan; Libny Sanchez-Morales, *Township Liaison*; Chase Taylor, *Past Chairman*; Claudia Stepien; Parimal Patel; and new appointed member Regina Wilder.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

Ms. Regina Wilder was appointed to Robbinsville EDAC by Township Council and Mayor Dave Fried on January 12, 2017 at the Reorganization Meeting. Ms. Wilder is the Senior Communication Specialist for New Jersey General Assembly Majority Office and resides in Foxmoor.

Ms. Jodi Stephens from Robbinsville Township was unable to show up to the meeting to discuss “Light it up blue” which will take place on April 2, 2017. She requested a business directory from the committee in order to contact for the event.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

December 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Moved by Mrs. Stepien and seconded by Mr. Jackson. All members were in favor of accepting the minutes.

TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW:

Mr. Tim McGough was unable to attend the meeting but provided Paul a list of projects for EDAC to focus on this year including the Robbinsville Master Plan, completing the Route 130 property inventory map and developing marketing plans that uses the two flyers for future businesses to come to Robbinsville.

UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP BUSINESS & EVENTS:

Mrs. Sanchez-Morales mentioned that the recreation department has numerous events from January to March called “Youth Nights.” Additionally, Libny discussed that on March 18, 2017 the Eighth Annual Robbinsville Saint Patrick’s Day Parade will take place.

Mrs. McGowan mentioned the Foxmoor Christmas Tree lighting was held on December 16, 2016 and was a great success.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE:

Mrs. McGowan mentioned the next Township Council meeting will take place on January 26, 2017. She updated the committee on the following items in Robbinsville:

Town Center South: Two potential developers recently presented their development plans. The two companies had different outcomes between their plans except both included a hotel; residential condominium units; set-aside for senior housing; and YMCA facility that will include an indoor and outdoor pool facility.

Washington Woods: Township is still waiting for the Judge's ruling with the developer to return the subject property back to preserved land. The developers started site improvements to the property which might potentially cost \$1.0MM to restore back to its original state.

Miry Run Golf Course: The Township plans to acquire the subject golf course from the with the Open Space Fund in addition to the potential redevelopment of the original club house being sold to a developer for a future banquet facility subject to change in zoning. The committee was excited to potentially have a future banquet facility in Robbinsville for future events in town.

Foxmoor Shopping Center – Redevelopment Status: The sheriff sale has been delayed due to environmental impacts from the dry-cleaner business. Additionally, a new business will be moving into Foxmoor known as “Painting with a Twist.” It was mentioned that they are performing fit-outs and might be opened for business by March, 2017. Mrs. McGowan also requested that the committee consider creative uses/ideas and new businesses for the redevelopment plans of Foxmoor. *A committee member suggested a bus service station for commuters as well as potentially an electric car charging station.* Mr. Rubin suggested the committee discuss this in further details at the February meeting.

Windsor School: The Township took ownership in the school and has been discussing what to do with the property. They have received cost estimates to improve the subject property for public use but has not yet made a decision on whether to proceed.

Fair Share Housing Center: Robbinsville Township Council passed a resolution on January 12, 2017 agreeing to the settlement with FSHC for the town to generate an additional 146 units. Robbinsville has agreed to accept a prospective obligation of 638 affordable units, many of which have already been built and/or designated as affordable units.

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Freeman v. Robbinsville and OPRA Litigation: A company that installs underground wire dog fence requested all personal information on Dog Owner's that reside in Robbinsville. More details will come in future months. It was mentioned that dog license applications are required to be completed by January 31, 2017 and the Township is providing a survey regarding this information be made public.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATES:

Mr. Rubin – no new report. The January 11, 2017 was the Planning Board's Reorganization meeting. The next Planning Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

ZONING BOARD UPDATES:

Mr. Jackson – no new report. The January 10, 2017 was the Zoning Board's Reorganization meeting. The next Zoning Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 which should be the third continuance on application for amendments to the approval for the gas station on Route 130 South in Windsor.

COUNTY & STATE UPDATES:

Mrs. Meyers updated the committee that on January 1, 2017 was the new minimum wage set at \$8.44 as well as the reduction in the State Sales Tax to 6.875%. Additionally, the reduction in retirement tax deductions/pensions as well as the estate tax all are in effect. She mentioned about a new concept of Municipal Micro-Grid. Lastly, the US Postal Service and the misconduct of their records not to approve Robbinsville their own zip code.

EDAC BUDGET:

No discussion as the budget was provided to the Township and should be discussed at the next Township Council meeting for approval.

EVENT UPDATES:

Choose Robbinsville Brochures: Mrs. Meyers has started to compile a list of businesses in all sectors of industries to send the Choose Robbinsville Brochures. Mr. Jackson made a suggestion to possibly include local Colleges and Universities for future residents as well as local Hotels. Mrs. Meyers stated a letter will be drafted to be part of the brochures when they get sent to the list. Mrs. Stepien will also be putting together a list of realtors to incorporate to the business contact list. Mrs. Stepien also suggested the brochures should have a link on the Robbinsville Township website.

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Business Award Dinner: Mr. Rubin received anonymous approval from the Committee to change to the process of the recipient choices for Small Business Award, Large Business Award and Keep-It-Local Award by Committee members voting versus public nominations. The two remaining awards (Civic Service Award and Mayor's Award) will be based on Mayor's choice. Discussion to move the 3rd Annual Robbinsville EDAC Business/Community Awards dinner to the new date of October 5th, 2017 to allow adequate time for advertising and planning. Councilwoman McGowan will look into availability of the location at Robbinsville High School as well as the subject date being acceptable.

State of Mayor's Address: Mr. Rubin briefly discussed that the Mayor has requested suggestions on who to consider the award at his April speech for "Pay It Forward" recipient. Mr. Rubin has requested the committee to bring suggestions to the February meeting.

Community Day: Mr. Rubin stated to the committee that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25th with Robbinsville Township Recreation (Mr. Joe Barker & Mrs. Sanchez-Morales) and the 3 officers to discuss the role of EDAC. The February meeting will update all committee members.

4th Annual Scavenger Hunt: Mr. Rubin mentions the subject event will be headed by Mr. Jackson and the event will possibly take place towards the end of October subject to available dates.

Master Plan: The Master Plan will be the main focus of the committee and Robbinsville Township Planning Board. It was originally approved in 2002 and the minor revisions accepted in 2007. The Master Plan must be reviewed and accepted by Township Council every 10 years. Mr. Rubin will discuss the role of EDAC in the upcoming months.

Route 130 Property Inventory Project: The mapping has been manually completed by Mrs. Meyers and there are discussions on how to create this in a digital platform without spending too much for a private consultant. The goal would be to complete this project before June, 2017 depending on time constraints.

NEW BUSINESS:

The final discussion of the meeting was the future meetings will be held the second Wednesdays of each month except in November, December and January do to other calendar conflicts. All members were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned approximately 8:35 pm with a motion made by Mrs. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Taylor.