

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) was held tonight. Members in attendance were: David Cohen, Brad Pransky, Laurie Hawkins, David Kratzer. Guests: Tim Coughlin, Colleen Mooney, Bonita Washington, Philip Washington. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Cohen made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2015 meeting and was unanimously approved with the following amendments: Mr. Cohen requested a change in the section "Citizen Forum" to strike the words "and maintained" in the last section on page 5. Ethan Chebot-Goldman be listed as a guest and not a member. The changes were approved.
3. **Committee Reports by Chairpersons.**
  - A. **Signage:** There were no applications to consider.
  - B. **Elkins Park East:** Mr. Cohen reported that the Creekside Co-Op has hired UpLift Solutions, a nonprofit organization that helps food-related nonprofit groups, to assist with its operations. Jeffrey Brown, of Brown's Shoprite stores, is the Chairman of UpLift Solutions. Mr. Cohen also reported that the General Manager of Creekside has resigned.
  - C. **Glenside:** Ms. Hawkins reported that the First Friday event on July 3 was well attended, with many families with young children participating. The members of the band that provided the music were students from Cheltenham High School.
  - D. **Elkins Park West:** The Elkins Park Square community room is being repaired and updated.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Mr. Cohen requested that the minutes reflect the committee's thanks to Ms. Hawkins for taking the meeting minutes last month.
5. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Old York Road Community Organization/Elkins Park Train Station:** Mr. Havir informed the committee that there would be a meeting at Keneseth Israel on Monday, July 27, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of fine tuning the planning for the Train Station planting project.  
  
Mr. Cohen reported on information from the notes of Scott Lempert, Chairman of the Old York Road Community Organization. SEPTA needs to determine if there is a water source for the new plantings. They have agreed to allow interpretive signage and will do work on the slope across from the Sicilian restaurant.
  - B. **Update on progress of Draft Zoning Ordinance:** Mr. Cohen reported that after nine years of discussion and review, there is a draft of the revised zoning code.

Mr. Havar told the committee that there will be three public meetings in August where the Commissioners will be educated on the new draft code. The public is invited to attend but there will be limited time for comment. The meetings will be in the Township Administration Building, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the board room. The dates of the meetings are August 13, 20 and 27. After the three meetings are completed, the Commissioners will determine how they will proceed with consideration of the revised code.

**C. Way-finding signage:** Mr. Havar informed the committee that the firm of Gannett Fleming has been retained under a professional services contract to provide design services for informational signage to direct traffic from Route 611 to the Elkins Park East commercial district. In addition to design services, a location plan will be developed to help secure permits from PennDOT. Chairman Cohen volunteered to assist with the process.

#### **6. New Business:**

**A. Clothing Bins Recycling Program:** Mr. Havar informed the committee that Commissioner Sharkey suggested the Township research the feasibility of having a private company manage the placement and collection of clothing bins and share revenue with the Township. Questions were raised about where the bin (or bins) would be placed and how to control the bins at night to prevent dumping. Mr. Havar said there may be space on the Township building property (near the district court building where the former greenhouse once stood) which could be a possible site for several bins but more than likely there is no space at the Public Works Facility. Mr. Havar said the bins would not be permitted at the leaf disposal site in response to a question raised by an EDTF member.

Mr. Cohen noted that he has driven by many bins but has not seen any that are overflowing. Mr. Havar noted a bin located on Cheltenham Avenue, near School Lane is always full and overflowing.

Mr. Pransky suggested that there is a need for more conversation about the use of bins to generate revenue and that more information is needed, including company information and how other communities handle the bins.

Mr. Cohen asked if there was any response to the letters that were sent by the Township to the property owners where illegal bins are placed. Mr. Havar said the four recipients were cited for being nonresponsive.

**B. Cancellation of August 18, 2015, EDTF meeting for summer break:** The committee unanimously recommended the cancellation of the meeting.

**C. Proposed Eagle Scout Project:** Philip Washington, a senior at Cheltenham High School, described his proposed project to the committee. He would like to clean up the municipal parking lot on Easton Road in Glenside that is next to the Glenside Pub. He would fix the existing planters, taking out the old plants in four beds and replanting with new ones. He would like to make a bench for the lot, using the wood shop at the high school.

Mr. Washington noted that he met with Dottie Baumgarten and she agreed to help with the planting plan design. He said he would also be meeting with professionals at Primex. He would like to conduct the planting work in mid-August (the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>) and have the bench completed in September, after the school year begins.

Mr. Havir told him that the Township would need to see the schematic for the bench for safety and insurance issues. He noted the bench would need to be anchored so that it was not a tripping hazard. Mr. Havir also asked that the planting plans be submitted to the Township for review and approval as well.

Mr. Washington was joined by his mother in informing the EDTF that they would water the plants daily, at first, and then weekly. Mr. Havir suggested that Primex could recommend a material (gelscape) for the plant soil to help hold water.

Mr. Pransky complimented Mr. Washington on his ambitious plan. Mr. Washington said that his Eagle Scout Troop was involved with many projects.

Mr. Cohen thanked Mr. Washington for his presentation and service.

#### ***7. Staff Report:***

Mr. Havir told the committee that, at the request of Commissioner Sharkey, there was discussion with SEPTA to “green up” the front corner at the Glenside Train Station. There was some discussion about the types of planting that might be appropriate. Mr. Pransky recommended that the Shade Tree Advisory Commission should be consulted on the issue and project, including site location, future development and maintenance of the plantings.

There was unanimous consent by the EDTF.

#### ***8. Citizen’s Forum***

Chairman Cohen extended a welcome to the guests in attendance.

***9. Adjournment:*** Chairman Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Rowland Community Center.



Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Per: Laurie Hawkins  
Charlene Washington



# Meeting Attendance Sheet

## Economic Development Task Force



Tuesday, July 21, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

Township Administration Building  
8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

*(Please Print Clearly)*

No.	Name	E-mail or Other Contact Info, if desired	Member (Y/N)
1	DAVID L. COHEN		y
2	Laurie L. Hawkins		y
3	Tim Coughlin	tim@squirrelnest.net	n
4	Colleen Mooney	cmooney@holysfamily.edu	n
5	Bonita Washington	bwash1@comcast.net	n
6	Philip Washington	" "	
7	DAVID KRATZER		y
8	BRAD PRANSKY		y
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