

Economic Development Committee MTG Minutes for 1/20/22
7:30 AM Lancaster City Hall – Room 1897 – 2nd Floor

Members Present- Tom Stoughton (4th Ward), Corey Schoonover (At-Large) Others Present – Mike Petit – LPA Director, Stephanie Bosco – Asst LPA Director, CDBG Director- Lynda Berge Disser, Kelly Scott, Bob Sullick, Tami Gunther, Amanda Everitt (DDL), Jonett Haberfield (Visit Fairfield County)

Meeting called to order at 7:35 am

Economic Development Updates - Mike Petit

Mike introduced the new Assistant Director for the Lancaster Port Authority, Stephanie Bosco.

1. Google – Site work has started. Some fees have been paid to city.
2. Chiyoda – Took possession of spec building, machines are arriving. They have a hiring event scheduled for later this month.
3. Essex Building – Company that does urban restoration is looking at the building (entire block). It was discussed that the building is seeing some deterioration and has not been maintained well by property owner. North market style idea is being looked at.
Tom S. discussed possible legislation for vacant /abandoned buildings. Drawbacks appear to be size and condition of the building. But the company looking at it specializes in this type of project.
4. Blue Label – Expansion nearly complete, planning ribbon cutting soon.
5. Workforce housing – Still planning. Made offer for some land. Architect is reworking design plans to be more in line with affordable housing.
6. LPA Website – New Port Authority website is up and running. Economic Development website is also being updated.
7. Spec building – Chiyoda is leasing with an option to purchase. LPA is looking into additional building(s).
8. Timbertop – Work is ongoing. Assisted living facility starting in spring. Developer looking at condo and single-family housing for site.
9. Misc. updates – Assisted Living facility coming to city on SR 37
10. State of Ohio to make an announcement of a “Big Project” in New Albany. This project is likely to benefit Lancaster and Fairfield County. It was discussed that the Columbus Dispatch has revealed project as “chip” manufacturer, Intel.

Community Development - Lynda Berge Disser

1. Lancaster has received an additional grant - \$1 million for lead abatement. This grant can be used for homes that have children with disabilities, seniors, disabled individuals. Our previous grant was targeted to young children.
Bob Sulick discussed lead abatement contractors and recent training for certification of contractors. There are currently no certified contractors in Lancaster. But this will change soon.
2. Housing Repair grants have been increased to up to \$10,000.00 Using unspent CDBG money. Door hangers will be distributed to make community aware of this program.
3. Eastside Industrial Connector – Still looking to get trucks out of downtown and allow easier access from US 22 to US 33..
4. American Rescue Plan funds remain, planning is ongoing for priorities.
5. Strategic Planning ongoing for Housing Coalition.
6. Sidewalks and S. Broad Street parking ideas were also discussed. Improvements to the area are consistent with CDBG planning for the area.

Destination Downtown Lancaster – Amanda Everitt

1. Love Local Campaign – Valentine’s week February 7-13th
2. Lancaster Axes 107 N. Columbus St. has opened.
3. 121 W. Main St. formally Tiberios is being looked at.
4. 117 W. Main St. Behavior Health business is coming to this address
5. Façade improvements continue, many updates in 2021
6. FCHC is moving to the old South Elementary School site
7. 221 S. Broad St. has been sold.
8. 211 S. Broad St. purchased by Brad Hutchinson, being renovated.
9. Olde Town Center at Columbus and Wheeling has been purchased by a residential developer.
10. Gateway Site – Gorsuch looking to break ground in spring. Possible site updates may include hotel.
11. Mill Carriage House on Winding St. Brad Hutchinson looking to renovate property on Winding to become Mill Carriage House.
12. Brad Hutchinson as also purchased former Rich gas station on S. Broad St.

Visit Fairfield County - Jonett Haberfield

1. Looking at sports tourism, significant number of people visiting area to play sports. She is trying to get additional information and look at financial impact to area.
2. Discussed hotel occupancy and need for additional rooms if we want people to stay and spend in Lancaster.

Motion (Tom Stoughton) and 2nd (Schoonover) made to adjourn.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 AM