

Borough of West Reading
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 11, 2024

Committee Members Present

Philip Wert, Chair

Dean Murray, Borough Manager

Nick Price, WRCRF Manager

Heidi Reuter (arrived at 6:16 pm)

Robin Horman

Chad Moyer

Aaron Gantz (arrived at 6:06 pm)

Staff Present

Stephanie Burkholder

Visitors Present

None

Call to Order

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Mrs. Horman and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Residential Properties Update

Mr. Wert didn't have anything to report. Mr. Moyer advised that there has been a decrease in property transfers recently compared to what they had in the past.

West Reading Commercial Properties Update

- 400 Penn – Winnie Mochi, sign has been approved, opening in Spring 2024.
- 428 Penn – Columbian restaurant, work is currently being done inside the establishment.
- 430 Penn – Former salon, no information available.
- 433 Penn – Schweitzer's Service Center, there is currently a tentative agreement of sale.
- 450 Penn – Vivi Bubble Tea, opening soon.
- 607 Penn – DeLune, moving out of this location and moving to 544 Penn.
- 609 Penn – Former Tattoo Parlor, will be moving to 607 Penn.
- 611 Penn – Refillable Goods is closed; a new business may be going here.
- 632 Penn – Little Shoppe on Penn is open.
- 10 S. 5th – Former Tristan and Sons, currently available for rent.

Strategic Planning Discussion

- Wyomissing Report – Mr. Wert stated that the minutes from the Wyomissing Economic Development Committee meeting were provided for everyone to view. He stated that John Pacchino from NEI Keystone advised that a medical entity from Pittsburgh may be looking to expand in West Reading and Wyomissing.
- Shopping Center Update – Mr. Wert didn't have anything to report.

Strategic Planning Next Steps

1. Design Standards – Mr. Wert advised that Derck and Edson is still working with the Planning Commission on this.
2. BID Update – Mr. Wert advised there was a meeting recently with Julie Fitzpatrick from PA Downtown Center last week. Not much information to report.

Old/New Business

1. Railroad Bridge – Mr. Price advised that progress is being made with GoggleWorks on a design for the bridge. There have been several designs, artists and stakeholder meetings for the project and sketches have been received. He also met with Mr. Miller for a consultation and a meeting is scheduled for this Thursday to go over all the details with Mark Ratcliffe. Mr. Price will provide Council with an update at the council meeting next week.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. **Motion** made by Ms. Horman and seconded by Mr. Murray.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Burkholder
Administrative Clerk