

Doylestown Borough Economic Development Advisory Board

April 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Economic Development Advisory Board met in Council Chambers in Doylestown Borough Hall on the above date at 5:00 pm. The following Board members were present: Chairperson, Otto Mills, Vice Chairperson Kim Stever, Rick Brown, Barbara Healy, Pat Keppler, Rick Lyons, Heather Mahaley and Lois Opdyke. Also in attendance were John Davis, Borough Manager, Mayor Ron Strouse and Councilman Don Berk. Absent was Discover Doylestown liaison Nerice Kendter.

1. Approval of Minutes:

November 9, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved. (Rick Brown/Pat Keppler)

January 11, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved (Rick Lyons /Kim Stever)

February 8, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved (Pat Keppler/Kim Stever)

2. Small Business and Entrepreneurship Center Discussion- Otto Mills

A brochure was reviewed by the board that explains a partnership with Delaware Valley University, Doylestown Borough and area businesses. Bill Viel, Co-Chair of the Department of Business Information Management at DeVal, heads up a program whereby students are introduced to local business owners in order to provide information, new ideas and support for ways in which to grow their business. Mr. Viel would like to meet with the Economic Development Advisory Board to discuss the program and Otto suggested the May 10, 2018 meeting.

3. SWOT Analysis- Kim Stever

Parking

Although merchants feel there has been an improvement in parking since installing the new meters, the board suggests we prepare a survey directed to the restaurant owners, thus giving us a better understanding of the parking situation, especially during evening hours. John Davis will compile a list of restaurant names and addresses. Questions for the survey can be emailed to Pat Keppler, who will then prepare a document. The board will aim for a fall mailing.

Retail Mix

-The question was raised, what can this board do to help the retail businesses in town?

-Review the Doylestown Borough commercial zoning requirements.

-Regarding zoning requirements, Mayor Strouse asked if there is anything we can do to encourage repurposing the use of buildings.

-Kim Stever discussed the "We Work" concept of providing shared workspace and services to small or start-up businesses.

4. Borough Council Report – Don Berk

The 10th anniversary of the Ride of Silence will take place on May 18, 2018. Don encouraged anyone with a bike and a helmet to join the group.

5. Old/New Business-The following will be discussed at the May 10, 2018 meeting:

Continue retail mix discussion

Review strengths and opportunities.

6. Adjournment- the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.