

Doylestown Borough Economic Development Advisory Board

May 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Economic Development Advisory Board met in the 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, Lois Opdyke, Brian Guerriero via phone, Patricia Keppler, Rick Lyons, Heather Mahaley and John West. Also in attendance were Borough Manager John Davis, Mayor Ron Strouse, Councilman Don Berk and Larry Browne, Discover Doylestown liaison. Absent was Rick Brown.

1. **Approval of Minutes-**
 - February 14, 2019 minutes were approved (Heather Mahaley and Lois Opdyke)
 - March 14, 2019 minutes were approved (Pat Keppler and Heather Mahaley)
 - April 11, 2019 minutes were approved (Lois Opdyke and John West)
2. **Discover Doylestown-** Larry Browne
 - A general meeting of Discover Doylestown was held in April. Members are hoping to continue monthly meetings.
 - Work continues on the 5k races, Doylestown Pride, the Arts Festival and the holiday decorations. Events are being evaluated to determine how to bring more people and businesses into town.
 - The Flyers organization has a program to set up an ice hockey rink and teach children how to play. Discover Doylestown representatives will see if this is something that can be brought to Doylestown.
 - Additional information will be added to the metal informational maps, prior to the kiosks being installed.
 - Results of the USA Today contest, "Best Small Town Cultural Scene" are due out on Friday May 17, 2019.
 - The Fox 29 event in town went well.
 - Flower baskets will be hung on Saturday May 11, 2019.
3. **Liaison Discussion-** Otto Mills
 - Suggested groups to be invited to attend the EDAB meetings as guest speakers are:
The Doylestown Historical Society, Rotary, Village Improvement Association (VIA), CB Cares (Kim Cambria) and representatives from Visit Bucks.
4. **Business Owner Focus Group**

It was recommended that businesses be divided into a retail group and a restaurant group. Businesses less than two years old, as well as long term businesses, will be invited to participate. Brian Guerriero will prepare an invitational email as well as a follow up email to be sent by Mayor Strouse. The email will explain how they were chosen to participate and that the EDAB goal is to help their businesses succeed. We will aim for a morning session, an afternoon session and a follow-up meeting at a later date.

Suggested businesses are: Quinoa Restaurant, The Escape Room, Stack's Co., Empanada Mama, Busy Bee Toys, Maryanne Pastry Shop, Doylestown Beer Distributor, Urbanlux, One Sweet Baking Company, Liz Benke Hair Salon and Playa Bowls. Additional questions or suggestions should be emailed to John Davis.
5. **Vacancy Report** – John Davis
 - The monthly vacancy report was reviewed. John noted that the winner of the 2018 Mayor's Award at 67 Broad Street is now for sale and School of Rock has purchased the old Doylestown Post Office/ CKS building at 88 S. Main Street.
6. **Mayor's Report** – None
7. **Borough Council Report-** Don Berk
 - The Doylestown 11th Annual Ride of Silence will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm.
8. **Adjournment-** the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.