

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

March 11th, 2014

Call to Order:

Flag Salute:

Roll Call:

Councilman Nick Maccaroni	Present
Kevin McHugh	Present
Rick Miller	Present
Bob Suchowierski	Present
James Knight	Absent
Councilman Jim Bilella	Present
Chairman Drew Straub	Present
Nick Guerere	Absent
Carl Canfield Jr.	Present
Roger Strong	Present
Kellie Myers	Present

MINUTES:

Minutes from January 14th, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes from January 14th, 2014 was made by Kevin McHugh, and seconded by Carl Canfield Jr. Those eligible to vote all voted aye.

DISCUSSION:

Drew mentioned that the Facebook page posted a statement regarding the closing of Kmart. 50 people liked the page, after the statement posted, the first day over 100 people viewed the page.

Kellie suggested reaching out to people, new businesses, have their opening date on the Facebook page. She would like to post small business stories, and use graphics as it gains more attention. Drew and Kellie maintain the Facebook page. Debbie mentioned Primal Kick Boxing, and Cedarbrook Dance Academy, and C&M Auto repair that opened and PaPa Johns is under construction in Hillcrest Shopping Center. There has been no movement on the micro-brewery that came to site plan review. The Pretzel place closed on White Horse Pike. Drew mentioned speaking with the Foster's about placing a mural on the side of their building. Another town had a mural contest that worked out

well. Rick Miller brought up about a tax credit like Voorhees, and shopping in Voorhees? Nick stated the Mayor spoke with them to get more information.

There is a County Economic Committee, and John Armano reached out to them. He mentioned Kmart, and the placement on Employees. Rick mentioned they seem to work more on parking garages and things like that, a lot is in Camden around Cooper Hospital. Drew asked about Red-Go Developers. Kellie asked if there were any concerns for Pasta Vino? Once Kmart leaves, will the area look run down. Has anyone reached out to the Owner? Mr. Lamberti intends on coming back to the board for final site plan approval on his Route 73 project. He anticipated keeping Pasta Vino for now. Nick explained the agreement with Armstrong Capital and having to build up the Commercial portion of the lot before he can build any residential.

Drew mentioned the Directory. Should be in a digital format so it can be changed as needed.

Roger discussed having some type of festival on the lawn. Bring in bands or entertainers, have a Sunday afternoon in July or August, local food vendors can sell food. Drew suggested getting a series started. Roger mentioned selling balloons, etc. advertise on social media, send information to the schools. Highlight coupons and specials from local businesses as well. Rick suggested doing a lottery or Roger mentioned a theme to help the local businesses.

Drew will be away for the next meeting, and asked Councilman Bilella to chair the next meeting. Councilman Billela mentioned fall fest. The board can coordinate efforts with the fall fest and local businesses. The Philadelphia franchise association meets quarterly, and the Chamber of Commerce added the Chop House to their meeting list. Drew asked if Solid Rock was looking to expand to a college campus? Nothing has been presented to the Borough, and it has not.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Kevin McHugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bob Suchowierski seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Simone

Cc: Charleen Santora, RMC, Business Administrator