

APPROVED
Economic Development Council
MINUTES
February 26, 2021
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building – Virtual
710 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
7:30 A.M.

In attendance:

John Vogel, Chris Heck, Elaine Evosovic, Stacey Reibach, Anna Siefken, Valerie Fleischer, Betsy Benson, Mara Dowdy, Joe Bevins, Commissioner Flynn

Commission Liaison: Andrew Flynn

Guest: None

Staff: Eric Milliron

- I. **Call to Order:** John Vogel called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **Citizen's Comments:** None.
- III. **Review of December Minutes** – EDC reviewed January Minutes. S. Reibach made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by J. Vogel seconded. Approved.
- IV. **EcoDistrict Update** – Eric Milliron and Commissioner Flynn updated the EDC on the annual Commission Retreat where the elected officials discuss and decide on priorities for the coming year. Commissioner Flynn had advanced the EcoDistrict initiative during the retreat; however, the process did not allow it to rise to one of the full Commission's 2021 priorities. It was explained that this will not prohibit the EDC from advancing the concept. A. Siefken expressed that the full Commission ought to be provided with more data related to climate issues. These issues are rapidly becoming, if not already, creating impacts that affect our community. Ms. Siefken also expressed that many of the issues that were identified as priorities (*i.e.* website upgrades) were short-sighted. Ms. Siefken feels strongly that there are more impactful tasks that should be addressed via the retreat process, and is hopeful moving forward the Commission focuses on longer term challenges such as the climate crisis.

Staff will be working with Commissioner Flynn to chart of course forward. One short-term task includes, but is not limited to, the organizing of an Environmental Summit that will bring both organized environmental groups and concerned citizens to one table to discuss the EcoDistrict concept. Fall is the current target window to host said summit.
- V. **Establishment of Working Committees on Workplan** – The EDC has retooled its long standing workplan to reflect the priorities of our Commission liaison and Council members. The EDC is now focused on three core areas where working committees will be formed:
 - a. **Mobility** – In an effort to be comprehensive in our approach the EDC is adopting the concept of mobility as one of the three areas of focus. Under this umbrella, three areas of focus have been identified:
 - i. **'Managing the curb'** – this focus shall look at not just traditional parking management in the commercial districts but allow for exploration of innovative policy and usages for our parking assets on-street, lots and parking structures.
 - ii. **Transit Oriented Development (TOD)** – The EDC has accomplished much work in the past on this issue, most directly around the Mt. Lebanon T Station. The EDC seeks to refresh that discussion but move beyond the aforementioned location to explore opportunities and set the table for other locations in the Uptown District.
 - iii. **Share Mobility Principles (Complete Streets)** – The EDC recognizes that our commercial districts must be accessible to all. This includes people of all abilities, all forms of transportation not just vehicular and creating the safest environment possible for all who utilize our commercial areas. The EDC seeks to spearhead not only a Complete Streets policy to be adopted by the Commission but explore projects that actualize the intent of the Complete Streets movement.
 - b. **EcoDistrict** – The EDC has identified pursuit of a designated EcoDistrict for Mt. Lebanon. This will require coordination amongst staff, elected officials, various environmental interest groups, and the community at large. This is a multi-year effort. In 2021, we seek to educate the community about the EcoDistrict concept, build the community architecture to plan and shall seek to integrate into the upcoming refresh of Mt. Lebanon's Comprehensive Plan.
 - c. **Economic Vitality** – Economic Vitality is always at the core of our mission. It is a shared mission of our local community Main Street non-profit – the Mt. Lebanon Partnership. The Partnership has created an Economic Vitality Committee that will work with members of the EDC to actualize its objectives. Current objectives identified include, but are not limited to:
 - i. **Business/Property Owner Support (COVID/Post-COVID)** – This will address grants, Federal/State Aid, and an 'Open for Business' campaign during Vibrant Uptown construction.
 - ii. **Placemaking**
 - iii. **Zoning**

- VI. Vibrant Uptown Update** – Staff provided an update on Vibrant Uptown. Gateway and LaQuatra Bonci + Associates have developed the bid package for release. Bids will be received, and Gateway will parse the information. Bids will then be reviewed by the Commission to accept or reject. Staff anticipates this process to be complete by May 2021.
- VII. Commercial Districts Updates** – Staff updated the EDC on various updates in our commercial districts.
- VIII. Adjourn** – John Vogel made a motion to adjourn. Anna Siefken seconded. Passed.