

APPROVED
Economic Development Council
MINUTES

October 29, 2021
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building – Conference Room C
710 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
7:30 A.M.

In attendance:

John Vogel, Stacey Reibach, Seth Davis, Jen Hisdorf, Amy Hrivnak, 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 August Minutes** – EDC reviewed September Minutes. S. Reibach made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by J. Vogel. Approved.
- IV. **Review of Comprehensive Plan Objectives for RFP** – The EDC discussed various initiatives/priorities to be considered for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan RFP. Primary items discussed, that will be followed up at the November meeting include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Complete Streets – Inclusion of language to incorporate mobility + network planning that incorporates all manners of transportation => walking, cycling, auto and 'last mile' devices such as scooters/ebikes.
 - b. EcoDistrict – Inclusion of language to incorporate either the adoption of a Municipal-wide designated EcoDistrict and/or climate action plan that focuses on economic benefits for commercial properties/uses.
 - c. Economic Vitality
 - i. Focus on *trending best practices in business attraction + retention in a post-covid world*. As an example, focusing on increasing residential opportunities within our commercial districts, co-working spaces, etc.
 - ii. *Zoning Refresh* – Explore trends in zoning that have adapted to 21st century realities and best practices.
 - iii. *Transit Oriented Development* – Revisit our community's TOD plans in light of new infrastructure commitments at the Federal level. Additionally, take a broader approach than a development above the Mt. Lebanon Light Rail Station.
- V. **Establishment of Working Committees on Workplan** – The EDC has retooled it's 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.

S. Davis discuss various initiatives the committee is eager to explore with the EDC including, but not limited to Pavement Reduction Programs and a robust Complete Street policy. The Committee is still recruiting members.
 - 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.
 - i. *Committee waiting on Budget process.*

- 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

EVC Chair Jim Bentz provided a report on the last two meetings of the committee. They have drafted a mission and list of priorities to discuss at upcoming sessions. This report will also be shared with the full Mt. Lebanon Partnership Board.

The EDC discussed the leadership structure of each committee and the following members have been identified as Chairs:

1. **Mobility – Seth Davis**
2. **EcoDistrict – Anna Siefken**
3. **Economic Vitality – Jim Bentz w/ Chris Heck as appointed EDC member liaison.**

- VI. **Vibrant Uptown Update** – Staff provided an update on Vibrant Uptown.
- VII. **Commercial Districts Updates** – Staff updated the EDC on various updates in our commercial districts.
- VIII. **Adjourn** – Seth Davis made a motion to adjourn. Jenn Bibb seconded. Passed.