

**APPROVED**  
**Economic Development Council**  
**MINUTES**

September 30, 2022  
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building – Conference Room C  
710 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
7:30 A.M.

**In attendance:**

John Vogel, Jennifer Bibb, Seth Davis, Chris Heck, Anna Siefken, Stacey Reibach, Commissioner Flynn, Greg Wharton, Matthew Moses (HPB)

**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 May\* Minutes** – EDC reviewed August 2022 Minutes. S. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by C. Heck. Approved.
- IV. **Establishment of Working Committees on 2022 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 have been formed:*
  - a. **Complete Streets/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.

*The Complete Streets Policy DRAFT has been completed and shared with the Solicitor and Municipal Manager for review + comment. Staff has presented both the concept of Complete Streets + the DRAFT policy with the Commission on two separate occasions. At the latter presentation, staff was directed to provide the documents in an electronic format for each Commissioner to review. The Commission is was encouraged to raise questions, concerns, and ask for clarity on each section of the DRAFT. This is to happen by end of October. A. Siefken strongly recommended for a community education/outreach on the subject of Complete Streets. M. Moses (HPB) reiterated the desire to see inclusion of recent brick street preservation language.*
  - 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. -> **Active EcoDistrict planning is now on Greg Wharton's work plan. Greg Wharton is preparing a comprehensive Memo on the subject to update the Commission on the status of this effort. The desire of the this Council's interest in Complete Streets is also a factor in the current Comprehensive Planning efforts.**
    - i. *The Commission has dedicated \$74k to begin working formally with a consultant to advance the EcoDistrict planning process.*
    - ii. *The national EcoDistrict organization has been folding into Partnerships for Southern Equity based in Atlanta, GA. This organizations mission is to work in under-represented areas. The committee should explore what this means for our efforts + determine any impacts or change in approach.*
    - iii. *The Commission has provided for a full-time staff position to work on issues such as sustainability, EcoDistrict, and assist in various efforts with the Planning Department.*

- 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 it's 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
  - iv. **Baseline Inventory (Post-Covid) of entirety of Uptown + Website Upgrade of Business Tracking\***

*Staff provided a committee report. A commercial district assessment has been completed by the Town Center Associates who were encumbered by the Partnership. C. Heck mentioned how impressed he was at the quality of the study. Once the study has been shared with the Partnership Board, they will be invited to present to the EDC. Staff introduced the concept of planning to establish a 'revolving loan fund' for commercial projects in Mt. Lebanon. It was suggested that this ought to be considered for the 2023 work plan. Staff agreed to forward information on the subject to the EDC.*

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

1. **Complete Streets/Mobility – Seth Davis**
  - a. Commissioner Flynn
  - b. Sean Battis
  - c. Christine Phillips
  - d. Megan Stahl
2. **EcoDistrict – Anna Siefken**
  - a. Commissioner Flynn
  - b. Mara Dowdy
  - c. Abby Lawlor
  - d. Amy Hrvinak
3. **Economic Vitality – Jim Bentz w/ Chris Heck as appointed EDC member liaison.**
  - a. Chris Heck
  - b. Bill Callahan
  - c. Chris Dwyer
  - d. Jeff Weiner

- V. **Vibrant Uptown Update** – Staff provided an update on Vibrant Uptown.
- VI. **Commercial Districts Updates** – Staff updated the EDC on various updates in our commercial districts.
- VII. **New Business** – A. Siefken suggested adding sustainability to the EDC workplan.
- VIII. **Adjourn** – J. Vogel made a motion to adjourn. C. Heck seconded. Passed.