

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Civic Engagement Board

Wednesday, August 7, 2024, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 6 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Kevin Brand, Tim Clougherty, Noah Evans, Adam Flango, Kelsey Leigh, Anna Roman Emily West; Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley; Staff liaison Julie Aquino (remote); Absent: Margaret Izzo, Terry Timm; Commission liaison Anne Swager Wilson.

Call to order: Board Chair, Noah Evans called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Meeting minutes: The May minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizens Comments: No citizens comments

Chairperson's Report — Noah Evans reported that there were some adjustments to the board's memo to the Commission, which allows the board to move forward in areas such as becoming a Certified Welcoming town. Laura Lilley explained the budget approval process for their recommendations. On August 21, Lilley will meet with Finance. On November 1, it will be released to the public online, and in November and December, there will be potentially four public forums. Flango emphasized that although they have completed the submission process as a board, they can continue to influence the process as citizens.

Commission Report — No report

Staff Liaison — Laura Lilley gave each board member bottle openers, which were distributed at First Friday and future community events to residents as part of the recycling education program. Lilley also reported that they received 863 responses for the Activate Uptown survey, which is the next phase in the Uptown Project. It asks for input regarding several public areas in Uptown including Clearview Commons, the clocktower area outside of East End, and Parse Way. Lilley asked that everyone encourage family and friends to complete it since the survey will close at the end of the month. Fire Chief Nick Sohyda is retiring in August after 25 years with the department. Sean Daniels will serve as acting chief during a nationwide search, until a replacement is hired. Julie Aquino reported that they are currently interviewing for the social services coordinator position. Evans asked about the recreation center redesign status. Lilley responded that it is part of the Parks Master Plan, it is very early in the process and no funds have yet been allocated. The main goal will focus on accessibility, since the current building has no elevator and is not easily ADA accessible. Kevin Brand suggested the committee recommend gender neutral bathrooms and signage for the project. There was a brief discussion about renaming fields after deceased residents.

Sub-Committee Reports – Mediation – Tim Clougherty reported that he is inquiring about training schedules.

DEI – Emily West reported that they are working towards getting the Certified Welcoming designation. She will present more details of the One Star designation (entry level), at the next meeting. Kevin Brand shared a spreadsheet that shows documentation of the process. The application for coaching in this process is due in a week and a staff member needs to be the lead applicant. Evans will reach out to the municipal manager asking for a staff sponsor.

Volunteers to help plan an MLK Day celebration are Brand, Anna Roman and Adam Flango.

Resident's Academy – Will start planning next month.

Old Business – Flango reported about their presence at the Lebo Pride event and shared feedback from attendees. Kelsey Leigh commented that some engagement was people from neighboring communities interested in adopting our implementation strategies in their town. She also suggested that the committee create a sign to display at events so that the community knows who we are. Flango addressed a suggestion regarding free (or reasonably priced) public meeting spaces for gatherings and possibly having designated rooms for this purpose included in the rec center redesign. Another suggestion is to designate LGBTQ Safe Spaces in businesses who would display a sticker in the window. Leigh volunteered to reach out to the Mt. Lebanon Partnership for help with this. Evans will write a 300-word piece for the magazine sharing the community input and suggestions received from the Lebo Pride event. Evans encouraged board members to check out the Welcoming Communities website.

New Business – No report

Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.