

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at New Britain Township, on March 2, 2017, and called to order by Consortium President William Wert.

2. Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

William Cmorey, Bensalem Township
Ranee Elton, Bristol Township
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township
Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough
Darrell Card, Chalfont Borough
Autumn Canfield, Doylestown Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Angela Benner, Dublin Borough
Terry Fedorchak, Lower Makefield Township
Anne Vidunas-Gladwell, Lower Makefield Township
Terry Fedorchak, Lower Makefield Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township
Susan Federsel, New Britain Township
Cathie Thomas, New Hope Borough
Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Bill Wert, Northampton Township
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Gregg Schuster, Warminster Township
Amanda Zimmerman, Warminster Township
Barry Luber, Warrington Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Judy Decker, West Rockhill Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough

Sponsors:

Chris Englebert, Beirne Wealth Consulting
Chris Tomlinson, InR
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets
Dan O'Brien, RBC Capital Markets
Sal Urbano, Virtual Towns and Schools
Michael Davidson, Uninvest
David Ohman, Uninvest

2. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2017:

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Carolyn McCreary, the Minutes of February 2, 2017 were approved as presented.

3. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Vivian Bell presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2017.

4. Presentations:

Bucks County Planning Commission: Mr. Wert introduced Lynn Bush, the Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission.

Changes as a result of County Study in 2010: Lynn Bush went over the different results from the County Study that was performed in 2010. The results showed that businesses were not utilizing the Bucks County Resources, to continue to be a strong resource for municipalities, and the County discovered that their loan programs were out dated. The Commissioners wanted better coordination.

County Loan Programs: Ms. Bush stated that the County repurposed their loan programs to focus on county priorities. Loans, except for the state-sponsored PIPDA loans, now go through the Industrial Development Authority. Programs include Bucks Rebuilt a policy of intelligent growth that supports and encourages the revitalization and the adaptive reuse of older, vacant and abandoned or underutilized brownfield or grayfield industrial manufacturing sites and commercial facilities; Bucks Renewed a program designed to leverage new private investment in downtowns and 'main streets' throughout Bucks County; and VC 4 BC a joint venture between BCIDA and Ben Franklin Technology Partners to establish a public/private venture capital fund to Bucks County businesses, where every dollar is matched one-to-one with Ben Franklin Funds; and Taste & Tour Bucks County a program to work with Bucks County Farming, agri-business and tourism communities to support and encourage family-owned farms, farmer's markets, tourism and the hospitality industry in Bucks County.

Open Space: Ms. Bush stated that multiple grant applications were received at the end of 2016 for the remaining funds in the Open Space Program. All applications are in the process of being reviewed and by mid-year the applications should be approved. Ms. Bush also stated that there are no leftover funds, the County only has been borrowing what was needed, so therefore there are no extra funds. However, the County will continue with their Farmland Preservation program and will continue to allocate funds annually.

Medical Marijuana: Ms. Bush stated that the BCPC has been receiving municipal ordinances regarding zoning amendments. If anyone has not passed an ordinance they should in order to be prepared in the future. Currently, only 2 growing facilities will be in Bucks County with only a few dispensaries. The locations have not been decided yet.

Transportation: Ms. Bush stated that Leslie Richards with PennDOT Connects is the planner employed in our region. Ms. Richards will look at traffic flow, pedestrian traffic etc. The County is not sure how this will manifest, but this is a major initiative state wide.

Trails: Ms. Bush reviewed the BC Trail Projects throughout the County. There is the Upper Bucks Rail Trail which is 3.2 miles and goes from Veterans Park in Richland Township to Lehigh County Line where it will tie into the Saucon Rail Trail. The design for this trail is almost complete and construction can go out to bid in the second quarter of 2017 with construction lasting approximately 18 months. Another trail is the Newtown Rail Trail that is a 2.5 mile train that goes from Bristol Road to County Line Road where it will tie into Pennypack Grail extension. The Newtown Rail Trail is currently being designed and construction will receive TIP funding through the Circuit. The Neshaminy Greenway Trail is 1.5 miles and will run from Central Park trail system in Doylestown Township, through Neshaminy Manor property and tie into existing trail/sidewalk at Neshaminy Manor Nursing Home. This project in in the early stages of planning and design, currently they are selecting an Engineer through RFP. The Neshaminy Greenway – Dark Hollow Park Trail which will be 1.7 miles from Easton Road to Valley Road near Route 263. The plan is to apply for future grant funding as this would be the next project after the Neshaminy Greenway Trail. The final trail project that Ms. Bush talked about was the Peace Valley Park Trail that will complete the path around Lake Galena as an off-road trail-underway. Construction of the Peace Valley Park Trail will start in Spring of 2017.

GIS Public Viewer: Ms. Bush reminded municipalities that the County has a GIS Public Viewer and handed out website information. Ms. Bush stated that questions can be directed to Bob Keough at the County.

APMM Brochure Presentation: Mr. Wert introduced Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough Manager.

Mrs. Zadell stated that APMM created a brochure on Diversity and Inclusion in Hiring “finding the Right Fit”. Mrs. Zadell handed out the brochure and reviewed the Top Ten Best Practices in Hiring. These included composing a panel of interviewers with inclusivity in mind; Encouraging development of bright and promising employees within an organization; Consideration of the qualities a person brings to the organization when reviewing candidates; Utilizing blind resumes in the hiring process; Focusing on measurable attributes when hiring; Consider removing a residency requirement for the position; Trying to include diversity in your hiring practice at all level, not just the top; Considering where you advertise your positions; Try Posting at career centers at local colleges and universities in a myriad of majors; and Have a panel review applications as they come in the door, not just one person.

Mrs. Zadell stated that with Career Fairs it is important to explain what the career is. Mrs. Zadell also emphasized pushing for blind resume’s to help avoid bias decisions based on certain information.

Stephanie Mason commended Sandra on working on the APMM Brochure. Mrs. Mason stated that there was an attempt to make this a panel at PSATS but it was not selected. Carolyn McCreary added that the APMM conference in February spoke about diversity and how people look at the public transportation near a job.

5. Discussion:

Verizon Franchise Agreement Update: Mr. Wert stated that there are 34 municipalities participating in the negotiations and a handful of those participants volunteered for the steering committee. Mr. Wert stated that the steering committee will be meeting next week and ask that any municipality that passed a resolution regarding participation in negotiations email a copy to Mr. Wert.

Salary Survey: Mr. Wert introduced Scott Sadowsky from Middletown Township, who is overseeing the salary survey. Mr. Sadowsky stated that he is waiting on a few municipalities to submit their salary information and will start compiling the Salary Survey.

6. Other Business:

There was no other business at this time.

Being no futher business a motion was made by Eileen Bradley to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled on April 6, 2017 at Northampton Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner
Consortium Coordinator