

Assistant Manager's Monthly Report

February/March 2017

Economic Development

- The Development Authority met on February 21st. John Eby was selected to represent the Development Authority in a focus group meeting for the Comprehensive Plan. The Board provided positive feedback in support of staff's recommendation to allow for indoor growing operations in the Township within the C-2, C-3, I-1, and I-3 zoning districts. The Board sees potential for redevelopment of some of the Township's older and vacant warehousing facilities.
- The Development Authority met on March 20th. At that meeting the Authority approved the hiring of Brown, Schultz, Sheridan & Fritz to complete the 2016 990 IRS Form. They also provided feedback on recommended changes to the Township's Amusement Device Ordinance.
- Lower Allen Economic Development staff and Commissioner Black attended a meeting with Secretary Wetzel of the Department of Corrections and Representative Sheryl Delozier to discuss the status of the prison property.

Special Projects

- Comprehensive Plan-

The second CAC meeting was held on March 15th. The CAC reviewed a draft of the Community Profile which provides demographic and statistical analysis of the Township.

Consultants have hosted five different focus group sessions and met with 15 different entities during those sessions. They have taken feedback from those sessions and combined it with feedback from the CAC to further refine the issues for the Comprehensive Plan. Noteworthy themes thus far seem to include preservation of open space, maintenance of parks, the strength of Lower Allen's neighborhoods, and the nebulous nature of Lower Allen's identity.

Staff has been working with the consultants to design the survey for the Comprehensive Plan. It is about 15 questions long and will go live on a Survey Monkey website on Monday, March 27th and remain live until mid-May. Feedback and responses will be critical to shaping the plan.

Visioning Week for the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for the first week in May. It will kick off on May 1st here at the Township Building in the evening. Followed by two days of workshops around the Township probably two a day, and then conclude on Thursday, May 4th here at the Township Building.

- Fun Fort-
 - On February 22nd Century Engineering attended the Recreation and Parks Board Meeting to discuss the survey results on the Fun Fort and potential concepts for the renovation. Century used a lot of the feedback from the surveys to guide the development of their concepts. The Recreation and Parks Board commented that all the concepts would work for renovation, but they particularly like the improved circulation and ADA accessibility of concept 2. They also like the two separate age areas in concept 2, but they were all very impressed with the bridge idea in concept 1. Century is going to draft a new concept that combines those ideas, and start to work on the Site Plan. That plan will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on March 24^h.