

May 6, 2008
Township Building

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Chairman Morton J. Simon, Jr. presiding. Members present were Commissioners Greenwald, McKeown, Portner, Sharkey, and Swavola. Also present was Ex-Officio member Muldawer. Staff present were Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager; Ruth Littner Shaw, Main Street Manager; and David G. Kraynik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Simon called the meeting to order.

1. Upon motion of Mr. Swavola, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Property Supervisor for the month of April, 2008 was accepted.

2. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Public Information and Complaint Officer for the month of April, 2008, was accepted.

3. Upon review of the Report of the Main Street Manager, Mr. Simon noted that the listing of the Child Centered Programs at 8310 High School Road as being in the Elkins Park East Commercial District is incorrect.

Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Main Street Manager for the month of April, 2008 was accepted.

4. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Staff Meeting Minutes dated March 25, April 8 and April 23, 2008 were accepted.

5. There was discussion about the viability of the Twinning Committee. Mr. Kraynik reported that a core group of the committee's members are actively trying to have the committee become a 501C(3) and trying to get new members. Mr. Portner commented that the committee's recent program at Curtis Hall about English Knot Gardens was well-attended. He felt it was important for the Township to maintain its sister-city relationship with Cheltenham, England.

Mr. Simon questioned expenses. Mr. Havir reported that the committee has over \$5,000 in its account.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners a one (1) year extension of the Twinning Committee to June 30, 2009.

7. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 2, 2008 were accepted.

8. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes dated April 9, 2008, were accepted.

9. The Committee discussed a recommendation from the Historical Commission to extend the listing contract for the Shovel Shop to Barandon and Hollinger Real Estate.

Mr. Simon inquired as to the prospects for a tenant. Mr. Havir reviewed the two recent prospects, both of whom are Township residents who wanted to relocate their businesses that were in another area but felt they would lose clients as a result of said relocation. Mr. Swavola felt that the Shovel Shop was in a very prominent location, and that its use for shared offices could be pursued as an alternative. Discussion ensued relative to this suggestion that included management, needed equipment and staffing. Mr. Havir reported that the realtor has received calls to rent it as a house, which would mean a lot of capital investment. Mr. McKeown advised of a possible sale of the former Michael's Appliances property at Central Avenue and Old Soldiers Road, as well as an adjacent property, for use as a restaurant.

10. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners a six (6) month extension of the listing contract with Barandon and Hollinger Real Estate to obtain a tenant for the Shovel Shop in the amount of \$900 or one (1) month's rent, whichever is greater.

11. Upon motion of Mr. Muldawer, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Historical Commission Meeting Minutes dated April 10, 2008 were accepted.

12. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 17, 2008, were accepted.

13. Library Director Carrie Turner presented a Quarterly Report (*see attachment*). She reviewed the following items:

- Up, Down and Around, a book which was used as part of the libraries' participation in the statewide One Book Every Young Child initiative.
- A recent book published on Camp William Penn Gate.
- Gates Online Hardware Opportunity Grant
- Record use of the libraries, which is already exceeding the 2007 total usage
- Receipt of an \$18,000 LSTA Grant, which will be used to purchase audio books
- The new service desk at the East Cheltenham Library should be completed by the end of June
- Ms. Carolyn Turner-Harris has been promoted as Branch Manager at the LaMott Library
- The food bank drive collected almost 75 bags of food for the Beth Sholom food pantry
- Staff deficiencies due to illnesses

Ms. Turner stated that she and her staff were pleased to have the opportunity to attend the workshops for Municipal Certification, which were very helpful.

14. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution honoring Barbara Mack upon her retirement after more than 19-years of

service to the Township. Said Resolution will be presented at a future meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

15. Under New Business:

a) Mr. Portner recommended that the Committee consider having the monthly Tuesday committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. This is an appropriate time of year to make the change since the Township calendar will soon go to print. Messrs. Greenwald and Simon stated that they may have a commute problem since they come from center city Philadelphia.

Mr. Simon suggested that a change from Tuesday evening to Wednesday evening be considered. There was discussion about how this could have a ripple affect to citizens committees held on Wednesday nights that would have to be changed, rescheduling of the monthly calendar, the availability of citizen committee volunteers for Tuesday nights, and advertising deadlines for legal notices. It was the committee's opinion that the change to Wednesday night would be more appropriate to discuss for the 2009-2010 calendar year to allow more time for discussion at citizens' committees and to allow Staff more time to review it.

b) Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners that the monthly Tuesday evening Standing Committees of the Board begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m., commencing August, 2008.

c) Commissioner Sharkey requested that members of the Cheltenham Community Development Corporation be invited to the June 3, 2008 meeting of the Public Affairs Committee to present an update of its activities.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie FelixT