

October 5, 2011
Curtis Hall

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Charles D. McKeown, Chairman, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Hampton, Haywood, Sharkey, Simon, and Swavola. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Portner. Staff present were Joseph M. Bagley, Esq., Wisler Pearlstine LLC; Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager; Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; David Lynch, Director of Engineering, Zoning & Inspections; John J. Norris, Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; and David G. Kraynik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. McKeown called the meeting to order. He announced that prior to the meeting, the Commissioners held an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

1. Upon motion of Mr. Swavola, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Property Supervisor for the month of September, 2011 was received.

2. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Public Information and Complaint Officer for the month of August, 2011 was received.

3. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 7, 2011, were received.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Historical Commission Meeting Minutes dated September 8, 2011 were received.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Staff Meeting Minutes dated September 13, 2011 were received.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 15, 2011 were received.

7. Upon motion of Mr. Haywood. and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes dated September 20, 2011 were received.

8. The Committee reviewed SEPTA's proposed art work for the Ogontz Avenue Bus Loop. The SEPTA representatives present were Patricia Miller, Government Relations Coordinator; Marsha Moss, Public Art Consultant; and Mauricio Silva, Project Manager. Also present was Erica Leeds, Burns Engineering and Nancy Blum, artist.

Ms. Moss reviewed SEPTA's process of selecting the artwork, i.e. a geographic area was targeted; there were five (5) finalists; three (3) members of the jury live in Cheltenham, one member is from the Cheltenham Art Center; SEPTA wants art work that would reflect the spirit of the community and felt this proposal was suitable to a gateway area from Cheltenham to the northern suburbs; and she reviewed Ms. Blum's biography and experience.

Artist Nancy Blum explained how she envisioned and conceived her art work. She named the piece "Enliven"; she showed a scale model and photos; she reviewed the height and width; her concept was to project a floral environment of color, joy and liveliness; she showed art work that she did in other areas; and she felt that it would provide a flickering visual experience for motorists.

Mr. Swavola asked about lighting and landscaping. Ms. Blum stated that lighting was not in the budget but she felt that the color she chose would reflect in the sun during the day and will be illuminated by the lights at night. Ms. Blum stated that the current green space will be used, and the art work would provide a strong sense of vision.

Mr. Simon asked for a clarification of its appearance. Mr. McKeown asked how it would be repaired if damaged. Ms. Blum stated that it will be constructed of resin and metal that will be difficult to damage; the metal can be painted; and yellow is a lasting color.

Mr. Haywood asked about SEPTA's policy regarding graffiti removal should it occur. Mr. Silva stated that SEPTA has a "zero tolerance" policy for graffiti. It has been SEPTA's experience with other art work that people respect art, and graffiti has not been an issue.

Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously approved SEPTA's proposed art work for the Ogontz Avenue Bus Loop as presented this evening.

9. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Proclamation honoring Josh Fattal. Said Proclamation will be presented at a future meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

10. Under Citizens' Forum:

Joseph Simone, 637 Custis Road, a 50-year resident, opined about the Cheltenham tax base. In his opinion, the Township's sustainability measures should include a study of the tax structure. He noted the reduction in the tax base for last year and this year; eroding property values; he indicated that at a recent meeting between the Commissioners and School Board members that it was alleged that real estate agents are not showing buyers Township properties.

When asked what meeting he had attended, Mr. Simone stated that it was the Liaison Committee meeting. Mr. Simon responded that the School District and Township organized a recent meeting of real estate brokers to familiarize them with the district, and there was a very positive response from them. Mr. Simon was also at the recent Commissioners/School Board Liaison Committee meeting and did not remember any statement being made that Mr. Simone referenced. Mr. Simone clarified that said statement was made as a comment.

Mr. Simone stated that it is difficult to sell homes in the Township. Mr. McKeown responded that 30 homes were sold in the Township within one (1) month, and clarified that tax bills are comprised of 15% Township tax and 77% School District tax. The Commissioners have been diligent about keeping its taxes low all the while trying to maintain a first class Township. Sixteen (16) years ago, the Township tax comprised 22% of the tax bill and now comprises 15% of the tax bill. He suggested Mr. Simone address the issue of high taxes with the School Board. Mr. Simone agreed but stated he was frustrated. He questioned how long the community can continue avoiding the situation. The Township's growth was being stunted, and this is a sustainability issue.

He cited large parcels that are suitable for development but developers do not want to come to Cheltenham due to the taxes.

Mr. McKeown asked if there were minutes available from the recent Liaison Committee meeting. It was Mr. McKeown's opinion that there should be communication to the Commissioners as to what was discussed at the Liaison Committee meetings.

Mr. Sharkey agreed. Mr. Kraynik stated that since said meeting was held at the School District, it provides the meeting minutes, and the School District will be contacted.

Mr. Simone presented a report of various student testing results and a county report of real estate taxes. Cheltenham's scores were low compared to other districts and one of the worst scorers. He stated that senior citizens do not have the energy to get involved. This is a manageable situation, and needs an action plan that includes state elected officials such as Rep. Curry who is concerned about seniors. He cited other Townships that have lower taxes as much as 130% less than Cheltenham and higher student scores.

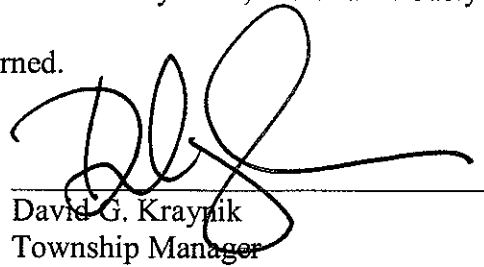
Mr. McKeown felt that this should be discussed with the School Board. Mr. Haywood stated that if the Township cut the police in half and changed trash collection to every other week, it could get the low tax rate Mr. Simone wanted. Mr. Haywood did not believe residents would be receptive to this. Mr. Simone felt that public safety was a soft issue due to the Township's proximity to Philadelphia. Mr. Simone stated that he was not questioning the Township tax rate. The Township does not have the highest tax rate in the county but the School District millage is 41.6 and Lower Gwynedd's is 16 mills. Mr. McKeown suggested that Mr. Simone's concerns be addressed at a Liaison Committee meeting.

Mr. Haywood noted that according to the report Mr. Simone distributed, Jenkintown's school millage is very close to that of Cheltenham. Mr. Simone stated that Jenkintown's enrollment is about 30% of Cheltenham's.

Mr. Sharkey suggested that the Commissioners receive a set of Minutes from Liaison Committee meetings.

David Flaks, 7517 Vernon Road, presented a copy of the Lower Merion Township ("LMT") ordinance that addresses the creation of a Human Relations Commission ("HRC") to protect residents from discrimination. He and his supporters who were at the Board of Commissioners meeting in September to ask the Township for an ordinance to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals ("LGBT") have reviewed several municipal ordinances and conferred with attorneys from Equality PA and the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission, and feel that LMT's ordinance should be used as a model for the Township. The LMT model affords lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals ("LGBT") the same basic civil rights that others possess. It also establishes a volunteer HRC to protect those rights locally in a manner consistent with state law. Anyone in a protected class who experiences discrimination can bring a claim to said HRC. This model provides equal justice for all and would make Cheltenham an all-inclusive community.

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



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix



PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
Public Affairs Committee, 7:30 p.m.
Public Safety Committee, 7:45 p.m.
Building and Zoning Committee, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 5, 2011
Curtis Hall

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
Ted Bahner	801 E Glenside Ave Wyncote PA 19095	ted.bahner@comcast.net
Ed BYRNES	105 WAVECROFT RD WYNCOTE 19095	
Deborah Richman Jacob Ketter	512 Glenside Ave Wyncote 19095	deebo7of9@aol.com
J. Werkman	1011 Sargentine Ln Wyncote, PA 19095	
DAVID COHEN	321 GERARD EP 19027	dlcohen1@ix.netcom.com
Max Minkoff	329 Harrison Ave EP 19027	max@planetminkoff.com
Lude Daniel	Ridgeway Rd Wyncote, PA 19095	
Christine Furtak Michael Ritter	408 Chapel Rd Elkins Park PA 19027	chrisandmichael@comcast.net



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Building and Zoning Committee, 8:00 p.m.
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NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
DARLENE MOLTON	1829 Chelton Rd Lammott PA	XXXXXXXXXX
Stephen Burns	145 Hewett Road Wyncote, PA 19095	
Joyce M Bridgforth	7317 Butcher St	
Fredericka Waugh	7315 Keenan St.	
ELSA TARANTAL	7923 PARK AVE E.R.	



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NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
Melanie Valleris	173 Fernbrook Ave	Mel4thepeople@aol.com
Shira Neuberger	116 Waverly Rd.	shiraneu@yahoo.com
David Flaks	7517 Vernon Rd Melrose Park, PA 19027	DavidFlaks@aol.com
Marsha Moss	220 Locust St. Phila PA 19106	marshamoss@aol.com
Truong Tran	104 Rices mill Rd glenside Pa 19038.	
Ann Rappoport	114 E. Waverly 19095	annrappoport@comcast.net
Anne Friedman	413 E. Waverly 19095	
Michael Di Camillo	1117 Edge Hill Rd 19001	mdicamillo@septa.org



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NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
MAURIZIO SILVA	1239 Market Street	m-silva@septa.org
Toni Cox	816 E. Glenside Ave Wynote	tcox@netreach.net
Liz Podrazny	107 E. Waverly Rd Wynote	
USA Term	120 Waverly	
Kuntia Melby	115 Waverly	
Kaye Gallager	2 Waverly Rd Wynote	
DAN Remmel	1167 Ave SPARTA	
R. FELDSTEIN	14 NORTH AVE	



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NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
Judith Gratz	510 E Glenside Ave Wyncote	judithgratz@gmail.com
Hannah & Stephen Reimer	508 E Glenside Wyncote	palindromehannah@hotmail.com
Steve Strahs		
Betsy B	8321 Cadwalader P 19027	
Margot Weiner	7705 Chapel Rd 19027	
Dan Norris	236 Berday Cir Chelt.	
Aires	Blue Stearns Lanoll	AKL
Erin Maher	7 Waverly Rd. Wyncote, PA	maher_erin@yahoo.com



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Deborah Richman Jacob Ketter	512 Glenside Ave Wyncote 19095	debo7of9@aol.com
J. Werkman	1011 Sargentine Ln Wyncote, PA 19095	
DAVID COHEN	321 GERARD EP 19027	dcohen1@ix.netcom.com
Max Minkoff	329 Harrison Ave EP 19027	max@planetminkoff.com
Lunde Daniel	Ridgeway Rd Wyncote, PA 19095	
Christine Furtele Michael Ritter	408 Chapel Rd Elkins Park PA 19027	chrisandmichael@comcast.net



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