

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Commissioner Rappoport, Vice Chair, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Norris, Sharkey, and Simon.

Staff present included: Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager; Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning/Zoning; and Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager. Also present was Joseph Bagley, Esq., Solicitor. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:08 p.m.

1. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Property Supervisor for the month of February 2015.

2. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Public Information and Complaint Officer for the month of February 2015

3. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 7, 2015.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Historical Commission Meeting Minutes dated February 8, 2015.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Staff Meeting Minutes dated February 13, 2015.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 15, 2015.

7. Mr. Simon said the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes stated that he met with Mr. Bassman. While he did not meet or talk with him, Mr. Simon said he would be happy to do so. Mr. Sharkey asked the Economic Development Task Force to consider including the Glenside Commercial District in the "Hit the Bricks Program" while it was considering the program for the Elkins Park area.

Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, the Committee unanimously received the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes dated February 20, 2015.

Mr. McKeown arrived at 8:13 p.m. and assumed Chair duties.

8. Quarterly Report of the Cheltenham Arts Center. The Center's Executive Director Margaret Griffin reviewed the current Year-to-Date Profit and Loss Sheet and Balance Sheet for the Arts Center. She said revenue is higher than last year due in part to store sales, a large donation and camp. Unexpected expenses are holding steady, aside from some minor heating issues from the latest cold snap.

Ms. Rappoport asked if there were opportunities to increase rental income. Ms. Griffin said there are opportunities; however, the theater space would need some serious technology and safety upgrades in order to make it more marketable to groups who would be willing and able to rent it.

Ms. Griffin outlined the programs and accomplishments of the Arts Center. She said this year is the 75th anniversary of the Arts Center and that it has started a five-month strategic planning process. This three-year strategic plan is the first formal process the Arts Center has engaged in.

9. Recommendation to enter into a lease agreement with SEPTA for the Elkins Park Train Station. This matter was tabled until the April 8, 2015, Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

10. Recommendation to enter into a sublease agreement with the Cheltenham Arts Center for the Elkins Park Train Station. This matter was tabled until the April 8, 2015, Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

11. Request by Cheltenham School District for waiver of building permit fees and other fees. Cheltenham School District Superintendent, William Kiefer, represented the School District in its request for building permit fee waivers. Mr. Havir summarized a memorandum submitted to the Public Affairs Committee which recommended the School District be responsible for all third party fees and the School District share the remaining costs 50/50. He said it is difficult to tally how much the costs would be, but the Township estimates that approximately 75% of a building permit fee goes toward third party fees. Mr. Kiefer said the School District would reimburse the Township for third party fees.

Mr. Norris said he understands the need to collect third party fees, but does not agree that the Township should seek reimbursement for fixed costs, or overhead, that it would need to pay out regardless of the School District submitting a permit application. Mr. McKeown said that from his perspective of running a business, the Township would need to be able to cover its costs to run its operations. Ms. Rappoport asked if there should be a time limit established for the waiver request. Mr. Simon said he is not in favor of binding future boards, but suggested the waiver of fees should be permitted for all projects, until further action by the Board.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Simon, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners waive all permit fees to the School District but bill the School District for all third party fees incurred on their behalf until further action by the Board for projects dealing with renovations and/or alterations, repairs or modifications.

12. Old Business. Transnet. Mr. Sharkey asked whether service was expanded from three days per week to five days per week. Mr. Havir said staff had researched the cost of adding two days and the cost of expanded service is expected to remain under budget.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners expand Transnet service from the current three days to five days per week.

13. Old Business. Repeal of Firearms Ordinance. Mr. Bagley updated the Committee on the status of the Commonwealth Court suit seeking to invalidate the Firearms Statute. He said both sides will be presenting their positions in court on April 15.

14. New Business – None.

15. Citizens' Forum – None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Norris, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

as per Alyson Elliott

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – 7:30 p.m.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 7:45 p.m.
BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE -8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST

(Please print clearly)

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE OR E-MAIL
Cliff J. J. Mullen S S Trahs	7600 PEWEE AVE	DEPUTYCHIEF2@gmail.com
BRAD PRONSKY	/	
Stephanie Eller	504 Plymouth Road, Glenside	215-317-2798
Martin Schmid	631 Twickenham Rd	215-886-8649
Stephanie Dalosta	2901 W. Cheltenham	215-885-2585
Erin Thompson	-	ethompson@wekingshane
Stephanie Gray		
Mayant Gruber		267-259-7772
Helene To MacDonald	316 Bickley Rd. Glenside	215 586 0773