

Toms River Business Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022; 8:00 a.m.
(Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom)

MINUTES

In attendance: Bill Beining, Mary Jo Buchanan, Lisa Cifaretto, Tom Forgione , Dean Gresek, Mayor Hill, Mike Hovance, Sandra Lazzaro, Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci, Lee Pelton, Danielle Szczypinski, Dave Roberts and Bob Shea Staff: Melissa Fernandez and Liz Thomson. Guests: Not present: Lou Amoruso, M. Bellack, Phil Brilliant, John Brown, Gabe Gillen, Georgette Kyriacou, Sandra Lazzaro, Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci, Mike Little, Tony Palmucci, Pam Piner and Arleen Read.

- Called to order at 8:03 a.m.
- Introductions & Announcements: L. Thomson announced that M. Bellack is out today because she is sick.
- Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by T. Forgione and second by L. Cifretto. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- Committee Reports
- Cultural Committee (L. Cifaretto) L. Cifretto reported that the committee met last week. They are working on a gingerbread village as a part of the Winter Wonderland event with TRAC. On Black Friday and Small Business Saturday the village will be on display in the OC Library and will be unveiled on December 3. The OC Library is checking to see if they can hold the village for display through the holiday. L. Cifretto discussed ideas the Cultural Committee is looking to do in the future- Mother's Day Flowers, Bus Tour of The TR Seaport, Historic Society and TRAC while partnering with the downtown restaurants They are also looking at doing a "Dog Days of Summer, where people paint a ceramic or stone dog that sits outside the downtown businesses from Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- Design (B. Beining)- B. Beining reported that he is getting ready to have the snowflakes ready. B. Beining discussed that there is a dead tree on the corner of Water and Main Street that will be cut down. He also got a quote to have the trees trimmed downtown. B. Beining reported that there are a few leaks in the building that E. Reilly has worked to mitigate.
- Economic Restructuring/Land Use (B. Shea) – D. Roberts gave an update on the ongoing projects. Regarding the Robbins Parkway development, the township is still waiting to hear if the parking lot will be removed from the Rosi List. The township Land Use Committee has urged the developer to concentrate on one project at a time. The first project on Water Street is still being held up by CAFRA. The project at Hooper Avenue and Caudina Avenue was discussed. The VA Clinic is negotiating contracts

with the owners of the paper road parcels for purchase. Discussion ensued regarding the negotiations with the USPS potentially moving. The developer is continuing discussions with the USPS but is also working on a "Plan B" should the post office decide not to relocate. D. Roberts shared some of the other options being considered. The Seacourt Pavilion owners have been approved to be the conditional redeveloper of that site. The new traffic plan for that area was discussed. B. Beining inquired about the work to raise Iron Street. D. Roberts gave a detailed explanation of what will be taking place over the next few years.

- Finance (L. Pelton) – L. Pelton shared that he and L. Thomson are working on the 2023 budget and will have it ready for the December board meeting. The contact for sponsorships for 2023 is starting.
- Organization (D. Szczypinski)- D. Szczypinski reported that their most recent meeting was cancelled. They will be meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.
- Promotions (Tom Forgione)- T. Forgione shared that November 26th is Small Business Saturday and encouraged everyone to visit the downtown businesses. M. Fernandez shared that we are partnering with M&T Bank for Small Business Saturday, and they have provided reusable shopping bags that will be distributed to the businesses. They are also sending volunteers to the Winter Wonderland where they will read holiday stories for children. The vendors for Winter Wonderland have all been booked and we have confirmed three sponsors for the event and possibly have two more. This will allow us to add more attractions this year.

- Colleague Reports:

Township (Mayor Hill, Lou Amoruso and D. Roberts)- Mayor Hill reported that there is a lot of road work taking place. The county is working on repaving Washington Street. Veolia is working on Water Street. Route 9 is being repaved from Indian Hill all the way to Lakewood and there will be some left turns added, that is a DOT project. The township is in talks with the owners of the "pocket park" at the corner of Washington Street and Robbins Street. The dog park, located in the Silverton section of Toms River will be opening soon. Mayor Hill congratulated the local football teams that are headed to playoff games. The Halloween Parade went well and was a success. Mayor Hill shared that the township is waiting to hear from the Governor about funding for beach replenishment. The county has agreed to \$3.75 million dollars and the township has agreed to \$1 million toward the project, but they are still waiting to hear from the state.

Parking Authority (P. Piner)- B. Beining reported that The Parking Authority will be working on plans to provide parking spaces during the construction of the Water Street project. Currently the USPS does not have enough parking for their employees, and this will be even more difficult during the construction period.

County (S. Lazzaro) – S. Lazzaro shared that the county recycling department has an initiative to give the recycling igloos a refacing with

art. L. Cifretto is interested in participating. There is a ribbon cutting tomorrow at the Wells Mill County Park Environmental Center. The county tree lighting will take place on December 7, 2022.

Library (Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci)- R. Leopold-Bunucci shared that The Toms River Friends of the Library will hold a book sale on 11/18-11/19.

Chamber of Commerce (M. Papanikolas)- No report

Old Business: D. Roberts shared that he has created a webpage to explain the history and the map and the NJNG remediation project. It can be found on the Planning and Zoning page.

New Business: None

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by B. Beining and second by T. Forgione. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.