

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Work Session

MINUTES – October 06, 2009

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors work session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors: Ed Travis, Chairman; Mike Gast, Vice-Chairman, Robert Miller and Percy Neall, Board members and Cary Vargo, Township Manager.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation - West Chester Public Library – Mr. Howard Sundwall, President, Board of Trustees – West Chester Public Library

Howard Sundwall, President of the Board of Trustee of the West Chester Area Public Library, presented to the Board of Supervisors the current status of library funding. Mr. Sundwall reviewed available services provided by the library such as children's programs, programs for teens, job search assistance etc. Mr. Sundwall presented statistics on Thornbury's usage of the library; 82% of Thornbury's households possess a library card. The Library is requesting \$1.00 per capita in order to support the services provided by the library. A lack of support from the Township's within the library's service area will result in service cuts. Mr. Sundwall requested that the Township consider funding the library in 2010.

B. Discussion – Greentree Place – Ed Morris

Ed Morris re- presented sketch plans for "Greentree Place," an 89 unit apartment project proposed for two parcels of ground located at Route 202 and Greentree Drive. Greentree Place would consist of (4) three story apartment buildings and one commercial bank pad. A discussion was held about different aspects of the project to include traffic, zoning, storm water, open space etc. Mr. Morris requested feedback from the Board.

Mike Gast noted that the Board appreciated the time and effort put forth on the presentation. The Board advised that a discussion would be held and feedback would be forthcoming.

C. Review 2010 Draft Budget

The second draft of the 2010 budget was presented to the Board of Supervisors. Continued discussion was held on prioritization of Capital projects and their impacts on the 2010 budget, and beyond. Staff was tasked to amend the draft budget based on feedback provided by the Board. The next presentation of the draft budget is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

D. Update – Waln Run Park

A briefing memorandum on the status and all costs of the Waln Run Park project was presented to the Board. The initial cost estimate on the project (from the Master Park Plan) was approximately \$575,000. Current cost estimates are closer to \$850,000- \$900,000. The cost differences in the two figures are primarily a result of required storm water measures, design, engineering and permitting, cost of the proposed pedestrian bridge and amendments to the plan that have been necessary due to unforeseen issues with the site (Pedestrian Bridge located in a previously studied FEMA floodway, a required Phase I Archeological Study etc).

The Board discussed specifics of the project and options and alternatives that can be exercised such as phasing the project, deferring certain improvements etc.

Cary Vargo noted that the park project is relatively basic and there is very little that can be removed in order to realize cost savings.

Bob Miller and Mike Gast expressed concern about the increased costs and the overall cost/benefit of the park project.

Cary Vargo suggested bidding the project in two phases in order to get a clear understanding of the actual costs.

Percy Neall expressed support for the bidding of the project.

E. Discussion – Open Commission Seats

The Township has received four applications thus far for the three open commission seats (1 position available on the Zoning Hearing Board, Historic Preservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission). The applications received to date were presented to the board for their review.

Chris Lang volunteered to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Ed Travis noted that it would be ideal to involve an individual not currently serving the Township in another capacity.

A suggestion was made to extend the deadline in order to allow more time for interested parties to forward a resume or letter of interest.

Cary Vargo suggested that the open positions be placed back on the web site and included in a Township email. A new deadline of November 2, 2009 would allow more time for submission and allow for review by the Board in advance of the November meeting.

II. OTHER MATTERS

Chris Lang noted that he and Dick Webster were present in Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's (PHMC) review of the Squire Cheyney National Registry application. The application did not receive approval from the PHMC. A brief discussion was held on the next steps for the National Registry application process.

Chris Lang reported that the Historic Preservation Commission met on Monday, October 5, 2009 and reviewed recently received bids for stabilization of the barn. The costs ranged from approximately \$111,000 to \$150,000 depending on the scope of work to be addressed.

There was a discussion about options and alternatives for disposition of the property and structures (private vs. public options), their associated costs and the appropriateness of each alternative.

II. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa DeStefano