

MINUTES
MAY 10, 2005 BOARD MEETING

The May 10, 2005 Enterprise Zone Corp. of Braddock (EZCB) Board Meeting was opened at 7:43 a.m. by EZCB Vice President and Mayor of Braddock Pauline Abdullah.

I. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Pauline Abdullah, Vice President
Nancy Graham, Treasurer
Michael J. Aldrich
Michael Tobias
James E. Canavan
Lucille Rago
James Reichert
Matthew Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

William J. Pfoff, President
Lisa Silberman, Secretary
Robert M. Grom

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Evelyn Benzo

OTHERS ATTENDING

Charles H. Starrett III

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Reichert, second by Mr. Thomas to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2005 EZCB Board Meeting, unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

FR: Allegheny County
FR: Design Advisory Team
FR: Heritage Health Foundation
FR: Heritage Health Foundation
FR: B. Grom, Grandview Image & Beautification Comm.
FR: B. Grom, Tri Boro Development Forum
FR: SMC Business Councils
FR: Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
FR: Senator Sean Logan
FR: SMC Business Councils
TO: W. Messina, C.P.A.
TO: B. Gray, Gray Welding & Fabrication Services
TO: B. Hogan, McClure-Johnston Co.
TO: EZCB Board Members
TO: A. Esposto, Mele Brothers and Sister Florists

RE: Website-Comprehensive Plan
RE: Tour and Meeting-Expressway
RE: Request for Funds for Planting
RE: Notice re: Rankin Bridge Planting
RE: Meeting Minutes
RE: Meeting Minutes
RE: Pirate Game Outing
RE: SBA Awards Luncheon
RE: Meeting w/SMC Bus. Council
RE: Dynamic Business Magazine
RE: Book & Schedule-Silberman Loan
RE: Welcome to EZCB
RE: Tax Credit Program
RE: Board Meeting Notice
RE: Enterprise Zone Loan Program

IV. ACCOUNT BALANCES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Starrett reviewed the account balances and financial reports, which were distributed with the agenda packet. He noted that the \$8,059.80 Certificate of Deposit at Citizens Bank under the Membership Accounts matures on May 12th. Some of these funds will be transferred to the Membership Checking Account. He'll discuss the reinvestment of funds with Treasurer Nancy Graham.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- **President's Report:** Mayor Abdullah said there is no President's Report as President William Pfoff is out of town.
- **Enterprise Zone Coordinator's Report:** Mr. Starrett reported that Jeff Schneider is Congressman Mike Doyle's new assistant for community and economic development. He formerly worked for Allegheny County. He said he met with him and talked about economic development matters and they are scheduled to meet again.

Mr. Starrett said Jack Machak is now working with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Strategic Investment Office in Harrisburg. Mr. Machak has local connections. We're to meet to discuss what resources might be available to Enterprise Zones.

Mr. Starrett said he will be attending the Sustainable Pittsburgh Conference on May 20th.

Regarding new members and membership renewals, Mr. Starrett said Gray Welding has joined the EZCB. He said we continue to collect dues, and to solicit new members. He noted the updated membership list attached to the agenda packet. There are 37 paid members.

Mr. Starrett said congratulations are in order to Matthew Thomas for receiving a Community Appreciation Award from the Braddock Rotary Club at the Annual Community Appreciation Dinner held on April 21st.

Mr. Starrett reported on the Tri Boro Development Forum and Image & Beautification meetings he attended on April 20th. He said the Image & Beautification Committee has scheduled the Rankin Bridge Planting and Braddock Clean-Up Days for May 20th and 21st. There is a request from Heritage Health Foundation to be considered under New Business for funds in the amount of \$500 for these activities.

Regarding Welcome Signs, Mr. Starrett said Bob Grom has been coordinating the design with New Guild Art and Design Studios. They're fine-tuning the design and there will be an update in a few weeks. He noted a letter from New Guild, which estimates costs of 3 signs at approximately \$13,600 each. Once the Committee and the EZCB agree to a concept, they will take the preliminary plans to the municipal governments for endorsement. They will approach companies for donations of needed materials, and they will approach companies for sponsorships.

Regarding the Design Advisory Team (DAT), Mr. Starrett said he attended the DAT's meeting on April 13th and the tour of their plan for the Mon/Fayette Expressway on April 28th. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11th.

- **Update on Status of Business Loan Program, Loan Portfolio Monitoring Report:** Mr. Starrett said regarding loan repayments, Grand View, Recovery Technologies Group and Gray Welding owe the May loan repayments. All other loan recipients have made the May payments. He said the loan closing was held with the A.J. Silberman & Company on Wednesday, May 4th. The first payment due date is June 1, 2005. He said we're preparing a news release about their business expansion.
- **Business Development/Technical Assistance Report:** Mr. Starrett said Anita Esposto from Mele Brothers and Sister requested information about the loan program for the purchase of the building that houses their business. However, they are not planning to add employees. After learning that there are employment requirements, Ms. Esposto contacted Senator Logan's office to see if they could intercede on Mele's behalf and have the Enterprise Zone job creation requirement waived for them. This is not possible because the State requires the creation of "a reasonable number of jobs in a reasonable amount of time". Board Members asked Mr. Starrett to discuss the matter with Ms. Esposto.
- **Loan Committee Report:** No report.
- **Website Development:** Mr. Starrett said we're continuing to provide information to the Cosgroves. As we reported last month, we will highlight the following success stories: A.J. Silberman & Co., Sciarretti Asphalt Paving Co., Dipcraft Manufacturing, Recovery Technologies Group, Inc., Sullivan Plumbing, Grandview Golf Club, Gray Welding, U.S. Steel, Field Environmental Instruments and BOC Gases among others.
- **Design Advisory Team/Mon Fayette Expressway:** Mayor Abdullah noted that Mr. Starrett, Mr. Pfoff and others from the communities of Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin and Swissvale along with paid staff and consultants are on the Design Advisory Team (DAT) for this segment of the proposed Expressway. She and Mr. Starrett reviewed the process and maps provided by the Team Committee, which show the proposed alignment. A great number of community assets, businesses and private residents will be impacted in these segments. Mayor Abdullah said she was particularly concerned with the status of the 404 Braddock Avenue Building that houses the Early Childhood Initiative. There was extensive discussion regarding these matters. Mayor Abdullah said she and Mr. Starrett and Mr. Pfoff will attend the meetings and advise this Board and their respective communities.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- **Authorize Application to Citizens Bank for Image and Beautification Grant:** Ms. Graham said the EZCB is invited to apply for a community grant from Citizens Bank. She suggested a request of \$5,000 for Image and Beautification promotion and website development. Motion by Mr. Reichert, second by Mr. Canavan to authorize an application to Citizens Bank for an Image and Beautification grant, unanimously approved.

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- **Authorize EZCB Sign/Booth Sponsorship at Good Shepherd Spring-A-Rama:** Mr. Starrett read the request from Good Shepherd regarding the sponsorship of a booth at the Spring-A-Rama. Motion by Mr. Reichert, second by Ms. Graham to authorize an EZCB Sign/Booth Sponsorship in the amount of \$100 at the Good Shepherd Spring-A-Rama, unanimously approved.
- **Authorize Donation for May 20th & 21st Planting and Clean-Up Activities:** Mr. Starrett read the request from Heritage Health Foundation for a donation for the planting and clean-up activities. Motion by Mr. Thomas, second by Mr. Reichert to authorize a donation in the amount of \$500 for the May 20th and 21st Rankin Bridge planting and clean-up activities, unanimously approved.
- **Approval for Payment:** Motion by Mr. Reichert, second by Mr. Thomas to approve payment of voucher 258 from the Revolving Loan Fund Account; vouchers 25, 26 and 27 from the Image and Beautification Account; and vouchers 393, 394, 395 and 396 from the EZCB Membership Account; unanimously approved.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION

- **The Rankin Bridge Planting and Clean-Up Activities** are scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2005 and Saturday, May 21, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Allegheny County's Redevelopment Plans:** Mr. Starrett said he continues to discuss the Braddock Redevelopment and Carrie Furnace situations with Allegheny County Department of Economic Development representatives. The Site Engineering is underway for the Braddock Redevelopment with Mackin Engineering. All vacant property is under Allegheny County's control. They've made offers on all occupied properties and those that are occupied. Regarding Carrie Furnace, negotiations continue and Allegheny County and its attorneys and consultants are doing all of their "due diligence" activities. Mark Patrick of Allegheny County is to provide a final copy of the Carrie Furnace Plan to us.
- **Allegheny Places Website:** Mr. Starrett said the County has announced the website for Allegheny Places, the Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan, is now launched. The County invites all to visit the site soon to keep up-to-date on what's happening during the planning process and learn how to keep involved. The website address is <http://www.alleghenyplaces.com/>. There is a public survey located in the Public Input section of the site the County wants the public to complete.
- **Tri Boro Development Forum Update:** Activities at the meeting were previously discussed. The next meetings are on May 18th with the Image and Beautification Committee meeting to be held at 4:30 p.m. and the Forum meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m. at Heritage Health Foundation.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

- The next EZCB Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. in the A-Level Conference Room at UPMC Braddock

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Reichert, second by Mr. Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 a.m., unanimously approved.