

Allentown Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, December 21st, 2022

MINUTES



Call to Order: Chairwoman, Linda Cotte 7:04pm

Salute to Flag:

Roll Call: Present: Chair: Linda Cotte, Secretary: Debbie Macaluso, Treasurer: Ed Havens, Bill Cotte, Kevin Jean-Louis

Absent: Jeff McLaughlin, Stephanie Lipnicki

Late: Vice Chair: David Lam

Council Liaison: Danny Payson, Not Present

Quorum was Determined

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

Compliance Statement Read: Chairwoman, Linda Cotte

Chairwomen's Update:

- Linda Cotte thanked everyone for a productive year and is looking for some new perspectives and ideas in the coming year. On behalf of the EDC, Bill Cotte, Sub-Chair for the Historic Carriage Ride presented Rob Schmitt with a Certificate of Appreciation for his help in narrating the historical portion of the Carriage Ride. This was particularly appreciated because our original Historian took ill and he stepped up to the task at the last minute.
- The suggestion was also made to possibly get Big Joe Henry of 101.5 to advertise some of our Allentown events on his radio station.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes Wednesday, October 19th, 2022- Debbie Macaluso motioned, Bill Cotte 2nd, all in favor, Approved

Treasury Report:

- Treasurer Ed Havens will update at our January meeting

Public Comments: (limit to 3 mins per person)

- Rob Schmitt thanked us for doing a great job and for all the things EDC does to promote good feelings in our town.

Old Business:

- Holiday Tree Lighting- Linda Cotte: The event was successful, bigger than years prior and well attended. Newell Elementary School's second & third graders participated by contributing art posters that were displayed by businesses around town with the theme "Peace on earth". Purpose was to drive traffic to the businesses displaying their posters. Members of the Leo Club helped with pedestrian traffic and assisted those with small children cross the street and to see Santa. Special thank you to Mike McCormick, TAVI, who was instrumental helping Linda Cotte with contacts and coordination.
 - The reading of The Night Before Christmas by Santa was new this year and was enjoyed by many.
 - Suggestion made to reach out to Alex Nebbia to provide a sound system for the next year's event.
 - Linda is going to speak to the Mayor and Council to see if we can get better direction on this event for the future and see if other committees would like to participate in some capacity. The idea is to possibly make this event bigger and better.
 - We would like to see the town decorated to a larger degree.
- Carriage Ride Update- Bill Cotte: The event was successful. Saturday was canceled due to inclement weather but all the participants for that day were reimbursed. Bill thanked all who helped bring this event to fruition, including this year's historians, Rob Schmitt.
 - Bill motioned to purchase frames for Certificates of Appreciation, Ed 2nd, motion approved.

10. New Business

- Suggestions for 2023:
 - Possible restructuring of the EDC and the role it plays on behalf of the business community.
 - We reviewed Ordinance NO. 08-2018 regarding the expectations of the EDC.
 - Bill Cotte will check to see if there is a revised ordinance.
 - Linda Cotte proposed dates for EDC's meeting in 2023. Reorg. will take place Jan. 18th and the remaining meetings will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Kevin 2nd, motion approved.

11. Next Meeting: Reorganization January 18th 7:00PM

12. Adjournment:

- Kevin motioned to adjourn, Bill Cotte 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.