

October 22, 2008

Development Commission minutes prepared by Al Musmanno

Attendance:

Altman, Jack (President Development Commission) ; Cammarano, Pete (Council Liaison) ; Donahue, Kevin; Epstein, Steve; Griffith, Laura; Mulligan, Lorraine; Musmanno, Al; Sabatino-Falkenstein, JoAnn; Scanlon, Joni; Wong, Lynn

Jack opened the meeting with a request from Jim Constantine. Jim has requested if we could hold discussion on the Princeton tour for next meeting when he could also attend. We agreed that this would be tabled until next meeting.

Jack opened discussion with regards to the suggestions of fellow Development Commission members that we include other towns to examine building heights and parking structures. There was consenting discussion that we all agreed that other towns, but not limited to, Cranford, Highland Park and Somerville may prove to be relevant. There was discussion among the commission which consented that the more that we can tour within reason would best suit our goals.

Jack reminded the commission as to its role for the community. As an advisory board, the role of the Development Commission was once centered upon setting a standard for building facades (Victorian) and to also attract businesses. These roles have been diminished and the Development Commission now operates as an advisory extension for the town council to collect information and public sentiment on upcoming development projects. Presently we are being asked to provide an advisory recommendation on building heights. The old Bagel pantry building is planning on a 4 story structure for retail and residence.

Pete Cammarano reported that there has been an Ordinance change to allow for a sports field facility at the Gateway site. It appears that this project is moving along. The Oakite site has yet to provide all certifications with regards to environmental concerns. The owner of this site will possess the liquor license from NJ's Tavern and it appears that this will be included in future plans for this site.

There will be a public meeting next Wednesday October 29, 2008 at 8 pm at the Senior Center to collect public sentiment for a parking structure. This meeting will be sponsored by the Parking Committee.