

DERRY TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN CORE DESIGN BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2019

The March 25, 2019 meeting of the Derry Township Downtown Core Design Board was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Member Andy Bowman in the Meeting Room of the Derry Township Municipal Complex, 600 Clearwater Road, Hershey, PA.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Pam Moore; Justin Engle; Andy Bowman; Jim George; George Achorn (*arrived at 5:42 p.m.*); Matt Luttrell; Rick Zmuda

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Lauren Zumbrun, Economic Development Manager; Matt Weir, Board of Supervisors

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Member Engle, seconded by Member George, and a unanimous vote, the minutes from the November 12, 2018 and November 26, 2018 meetings were approved as presented.

REORGANIZATION

On a motion made by Member Engle, seconded by Member Moore, and a unanimous vote, the Board appointed Justin Engle as Chairman.

On a motion made by Member Bowman, seconded by Member Moore, and a unanimous vote, the Board appointed Andy Bowman as Secretary.

On a motion made by Member Zmuda, seconded by Member Engle, and a unanimous vote, the Board appointed Rick Zmuda as Vice Chairman.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Chocolate Avenue Street Tree Plan

The Board reviewed and discussed the first draft of the tree plan for Chocolate Avenue.

- The plan was prepared based on field walks that were conducted by Matt Weir, Justin Engle, Bob Good, and Lauren Zumbrun, and in conjunction with updates to the Township's shade tree ordinance.

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- The area covered to date includes West Chocolate Avenue between Cocoa Avenue and Old West Chocolate Avenue. Tree locations will also be identified along East Chocolate Avenue.
- The plan to date shows a mix of small flowering trees and larger trees along the Chocolate Avenue corridor with the intent of increasing the tree canopy in the downtown while also considering visibility of downtown businesses.
- The plan also identifies locations where trees should be removed, based on the current condition and/or health of the trees.
- Matt Weir, Bob Good, and other members of the Environmental Action Committee will be reviewing the draft plan and identifying specific recommended species.
- The Downtown Hershey Association is continuing to work with community partners to identify potential funding sources for the trees that can be used for a spring or fall planting.

B. ChocolateTown Square East Park Master Plan Update

The Board discussed plans for ChocolateTown Square East Park, including a brief history of the work that has been done to date and a review of the latest concept.

- Improvements were first conceptualized as part of the Downtown Hershey Master Plan. Following the Master Plan, Derck & Edson developed several sets of conceptual renderings and flyovers using Google Sketchup, but a concept was not finalized during this process.
- The Township entered into a design contract with HRG to complete the design for the park (the portion in front of the theater and the triangular portion next to the Fire Company).
- Several renderings were prepared by HRG in an effort to work within the concepts prepared by Derck & Edson and also meet the needs of The Hershey Company. The previous designs followed the perimeter of the existing site and grading the site near the Cocoa Avenue/Chocolate Avenue intersection to be level with the community building.
- HRG prepared a cost estimate showing a total project cost of over one million dollars and also provided two preliminary phasing options that involved either completing site grading or planting trees and completing the portion of the site

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near the Fire Company.

- The project was placed on hold after it was determined that the Township did not have matching funds for construction that it could use to apply for grant funding through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- A renewed interest in the site came as a result of the proposed community center project, when it was determined that a space was needed to house the memorial plaques at the existing recreation center.
- Jim Feath, a landscape architect from HRG's Pittsburgh office, was in Hershey for other meetings and had an opportunity to visit the site. In conjunction with that visit, he noted that there may be an opportunity to work within the existing site topography to minimize grading and provide more of a passive, multifunctional quad space.
- Mr. Feath prepared a new concept that showed the site divided into distinct areas by a system of walkways that worked to highlight the entrance to 14 East Chocolate Avenue. It also included a grove of trees near the center of the site that could be used to house tables and chairs for some events.
- The new concept was favorably received by the Downtown Core Design Board. The Board liked the grove and the walkways that highlighted the entrance. The approximate cost for the project east of Cocoa Avenue was also much lower at \$365,211.25.
- The Board briefly discussed adding creative uplighting to the space.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Secretary