

Minutes

Jenkintown Revitalization Steering Committee

Meeting Number 1

Borough Hall

September 22 2009 730 pm

Attendance: See Sign In Sheet

Topics: Not in Chronological Order

611- Considerable discussion regarding the advantages(disadvantages) of reconfiguring 611 as three lanes with bike lanes through the center of Jenkintown.

Next Steps: Consultant will explore a meeting with PADOT Secretary to advance idea.

Lighting/Gateway- There was strong support for the consultant to investigate decorative lighting options of the buildings along 611. If funding permits gateway signage/lighting should also be explored.
Next Steps: Consultant will investigate and advise.

West Ave./Plaza Concept-There was considerable support for the consultant to investigate creating a modest plaza(piazza) near West Ave, perhaps Yorkway Place, for residents to gather with an

outdoor TV screen, live music, and food. Subject to not closing State roads.

Next Steps: Consultant will investigate

Public Meetings- it was agreed the first public meetings will be coffee with two wards at a time on Oct 13 and 15. These meetings will probably be held at the new community room in the school. The first meeting will be to listen to community ideas, the second will be to respond to those ideas, possibly with education if needed and the third meeting will be with the entire community to prioritize.

Next Steps: The consultant will prepare an

announcement for distribution by Borough staff.

Borough staff will also arrange to send home with the school students and place on website.

Pedestrian Activity- It was noted that Jenkintown is a community of front porches and sidewalks yet there is almost no pedestrian activity at night.

Next Steps: The public meeting process will be used to explore with the residents what they would be willing to walk to. Perhaps the consultant will provide pedometers to selected residents to raise awareness of how walkable a community Jenkintown really is. Also the Borough will continue discussions with SEPTA regarding a shuttle from the train stations through the town.

Highway Theatre- This 2-300 seat theatre was defined as a key feature of the community.

Next Steps: None yet

Business District: The Jenkintown Community Alliance has done a great deal to promote the district. Key questions that need to be answered include: what kind of district does the community want: retail or office. Both uses have conflicting parking needs unless we focus on “hotelling” residents who work from home, but want an office nearby instead. How can the vacant or casually used storefronts be improved. What kind of retail do the residents want and at what price point target to what demographic. Next Steps: The Committee will help the consultant team identify stakeholders to be interviewed. Those interviews will be analyzed, and discussed with the committee for insight and advice.

Web Site: Project web site can be linked to the Borough site.

Next Step: Consultant will discuss specifics with Webmaster.

Composition of Committee: It was agreed that adding a representative from the faith based community would be explored. In addition it was thought that

commercial interests, school district representative, and a high school student should be added.

Next Steps: Committee to recruit

Prior Plan: Goals and outcomes of the prior plan were reviewed and discussed.

Next Meeting: Oct 20 2009 730