

**Borough of West Reading**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 12, 2024**

**Committee Members Present**

Philip Wert, Chair  
Dean Murray, Borough Manager  
Nick Price, WRCRF Manager  
Heidi Reuter (arrived at 6:18 pm)

Samantha Kaag  
Robin Horman  
Chad Moyer  
Aaron Gantz

**Staff Present**

Stephanie Burkholder

**Visitors Present**

None

**Call to Order**

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion** made by Mrs. Horman and seconded by Ms. Gantz to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

**Residential Properties Update**

Mr. Wert stated that there's a proposal for potential development of a two-unit property at a vacant lot at the intersection of Olive Street and Walnut Street which would need several variances. Mrs. Horman asked if there were housing shortages with Drexel University students. Mr. Wert stated that housing development is being proposed in the Berkshire Heights area which could take place in the next couple of years.

**West Reading Commercial Properties Update**

- 400 Penn – Winnie Mochi slated to open in Spring 2024.
- 428 Penn – Columbian restaurant may be going at this location.
- 433 Penn – Schweitzer's Service Center, to be discussed at the next council meeting.
- 450 Penn – Vivi Bubble Tea, opening date is TBD.
- 508 Penn – Psychic on Penn has opened.
- 611 Penn – Refillable Goods will be closing in February. A second hand or vintage store may be going here.
- 632 Penn – Little Shoppe on Penn had their ribbon cutting ceremony recently.
- 10 S. 5<sup>th</sup> – Tristan and Sons is closing.
- 12A S. 5<sup>th</sup> – Tinsel & Twig is currently looking for a new location.
- 525 Penn – A juice establishment will be going in the former Yorgey's location.
- 621 Franklin – Potential barber shop may be going at this location.

### **Strategic Planning Discussion**

- Wyomissing Report – Mr. Wert advised that the restaurant on State Hill Road may be going away and apartments built there in which zoning details would need to be figured out. The Inn at Reading has a settlement coming up in April. This could potentially be a residential and commercial property which would look similar to Wyomissing Square.
- Shopping Center Update – Mr. Wert didn't have anything to report.

### **Strategic Planning Next Steps**

1. Design Standards – Mr. Wert advised that the Planning Commission still continues to work on this.
2. BID Update – Mr. Wert advised that the WRCRF had met last week and didn't have much information to add.

### **Old/New Business**

There wasn't anything to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. **Motion** made by Ms. Horman and seconded by Ms. Kaag.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Burkholder  
Administrative Clerk