



**Business Development Partnership
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024
12:30 PM at Township Administration Building**

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 12:30 P.M. at the Township Administration Building on November 19, 2024. A virtual option was available via Microsoft Teams. The members of the BDP in attendance were Jim Brusilovsky, Joy Zwicker, Jay Haenn, JP Northrop, and Ryan Frazier. Derek Muller, the Public Information Coordinator, and Beth Staab, the liaison of the Board of Supervisors, were also present. Neil Brady from the VMSC EMS attended to provide an update on their operations.

Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order – 12:38 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes- September 17, 2024: Approved on a motion by Mr. Northrop and seconded by Mr. Brusilovsky
3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
4. New Business
 - a. **Emergency Services Update:** Neil Brady from VMSC EMS provided updates on their 2024 operations, including a partnership with Jefferson Health, a new education program, a merger with Burholme Community Ambulance, and a 40% increase in whole blood infusion success rates.
 - b. 2025 Meeting Schedule
 - i. The committee expressed the desire to continue on a monthly meeting schedule in 2025, excluding August and December.
5. Old/Other Business
 - a. Welcome New Business Swag Bags and Social Media
 - i. Mr. Muller shared that he was nearing completion of a New Resident Guide, which will also contain important information for new businesses. He will bring the document to the next meeting.
 - ii. The committee expressed the need to maintain an up-to-date business directory for business engagement.
 - b. Business Updates Roundtable: See page 2 for this month's business updates.
6. Adjournment: 1:34 p.m.

November 2024 Business Updates

J.P. Northrop (Edward Jones): J.P. continued to focus on economic trends, discussing the Federal Reserve's cautious approach to interest rate adjustments, particularly during election cycles. He emphasized the transformative impact of AI investments on the market while reiterating concerns about rising consumer debt and its potential to dampen spending.

Ryan Frazier (Citadel Credit Union):

Ryan maintained a focus on lending trends, noting persistent inconsistency in mortgage activity but steady interest in short-term rate products. He continued to highlight economic uncertainty, emphasizing the potential impact of delayed interest rate cuts on financial planning and lending strategies.

Jim Brusilovsky (Marks Jewelers):

Jim reported that business performance remains strong, with the price of gold continuing to climb and retail trends holding steady. He reiterated the importance of expanding representation within the BDP and suggested the inclusion of Nappen and Associates to strengthen community connections.

Jay Haenn (Lansdale Auto Groups):

Jay continued to monitor the automobile market, sharing that while new car sales remain sluggish due to manufacturing challenges, the used car market continues to thrive. He expressed optimism that supply chain issues would improve, allowing the local market to fully capitalize on consumer demand.

Joy Zwicker (Iron Valley Real Estate):

Joy continued to highlight trends in the real estate market, noting a slowdown in sales and increased days on the market. She emphasized the growing impact of corporate ownership on community dynamics and reiterated the high demand for turnkey properties despite rising interest rates.

Derek Muller (Montgomery Township Public Information): Derek shared that Montgomery Township continues to seek a Finance Director. Mizvah Circle opened its doors on October 30th and is collecting donations and seeking volunteers to serve community members in need. Panera will relocate to the front of Airport Square, along 309. The Traffic Garden at Spring Valley Park, which is like a mini road for kids and families to practice bike and pedestrian safety in a contained (and fun!) environment, opened. He also shared that Chief William R. Peoples was sworn in as the Chief of Police on November 11th, 2024.