

Big Meeting
August 10, 2009, 7pm
Bellevue Christian Church meeting room

In attendance: Kathy Coder, Craig Otto, Tom Michalow, Rich Furis, Chuck Gohn, Heather Sedlacko, Michele Smith, Mike Wozetek, Scott Keener, Paul Cusick

Kathy Coder –Introductions, Origins of BIG, Update
Attendees introduced themselves

Origins- BIG started in November 2008; 5-year strategic plan developed from the SWOT analysis guided by Peter Johnson; Various committees were established to advance the plan. Marketing, Events, Residential, and Business Development committees were formed. Marketing established a creative team; the Events and Residential evolved, Green and Helping Hands committees were initiated. BIG expanded and representatives from other communities attended meetings. BIG became BIGr. Some suggested moving away from Borough Council to establish a separate entity as a non-profit while maintaining existing groups and creating the new Green and BIG Hands. Allegheny Together was identified as a viable option to promote the Business Development component and was suggested as a means to advance the plan. The recommendation was made to Council and Bellevue Borough applied to be considered for the three-year program.

August council meeting -Bellevue passed the new Tri-Borough Zoning Ordinance
The Tri-Borough Comprehensive plan was 5 years in the making; A major recommendation of the Comprehensive plan was to combine zoning for all three communities with joint zoning; Another major recommendation- sharing services
Joint Planning Commission has 3 representatives from each of the three communities- meet 4th Monday each month.

State already widening SR 65; PA Boroughs Assn- discussion; Connect with neighboring communities to the city
Bellevue Borough was appointed to the executive committee.

Film location manager contacted Kathy-(president of Bellevue Council) scouting for locations for new movie "The Next Three Days" (Paul Reger -Philadelphia office). Several locations were discussed and will be viewed for consideration.

Allegheny Together Report -Rich Furis
Jessica Mooney recommended contacting communities implementing the program
Several Committees are included in the basic plan- Business Development, Architecture and Community Life
Mr Furis contacted- Julie Hilliard -Tarentum Business Area Advisory Committee and Ray Puskar -Stowe Township for discussion of activities and results achieved from the program.

Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development <http://www.ppend.org/> is a development model for growth.

Opportunities for Improvements to promote the Borough as a visible and desirable location include Signage on Route 65, no conversion of single family to multi-family, creating incentives to return multiples to single family with tax abatements; Identify a school district image improvement program –little or no PR exists

Michele Smith reported on EnjoyBellevue
Origins of EnjoyBellevue from January 2008 to present were presented.

Chuck Gohn- presented BIG Hands and a potential association with Smallworks.org -as introduced by Terry Rorison;
The objective is to manage projects and committees; Match needs with people.

Tom Michalow -Dumpster day -free dumpsters through grant program provide a way to get rid of trash in the Borough;
Vegetative recycling has been established in Avalon Borough.