

PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING
November 3, 2014

A special meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room, Monument Hall, 1 Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Christopher Eisgruber, President of Princeton University.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Deputy Clerk noted that the meeting requirements had been met.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On October 24, 2014 at 3:05 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times and the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Butler, Ms. Crumiller, Ms. Howard, Mr. Liverman, Mr. Miller, Mr. Simon and Mayor Lempert.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Dashield and Ms. Monzo.

Mayor Lempert welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Council members, Princeton University President, Christopher Eisgruber, Robert Durkee, Vice President and Kristin Appelget, Director, Community and Regional Affairs. She then opened the floor to public comment.

Hitash Patel, Richard Court, spoke about the need for additional playing fields for Princeton's youth and asked the University to considered groups that are not part of the Princeton Recreation Department for field and facility use.

Anne Neumann, Alexander Street, asked if the public could direct a question to Mr. Eisgruber about the Dinky line. Mayor Lempert responded that tonight was for a discussion with Council and that Council would be directing questions to Mr. Eisgruber.

Mimi Omiecinski, Nassau Street, thanked Mr. Eisgruber for the new management group that is running the Garden Theater, and for monies recently donated to the elementary schools which is matching

kids with chefs. She also said that as a business owner, the college is purchasing locally and the University is undertaking a map that will show every business in town for students and visitors.

John Durbin, Mt. Lucas Road, said he applauds tonight's meeting and that this is the right step for the community and that he wants to push the relationship forward to build on for our community.

Anton Lahnston, Elm Road, said that he was thrilled that President Eisgruber was here and that it is important for the relationship between this community and the University. He said there is still a long way to go and that this is just the beginning, but applauds Mr. Eisgruber and his staff for all their efforts and noted that the Community also has an obligation to the University

Mayor Lempert welcomed President Christopher Eisgruber and said that she looks forward to building a more trusting relationship and congratulated him on his first year.

Mr. Eisgruber thanked the Mayor and Council and said he agrees with open channels of communication and building trust and that he does think these conversations are indispensable.

Mr. Eisgruber then spoke about planning projects the University launched this year; a strategic planning process that is intended to provide a framework for decision making about how the University can best pursue its missions of teaching and research and a campus planning process that will help identify options for campus development over ten years and over a thirty year time frame. He said that the University had chosen Urban Strategies as the firm to undertake the process.

Mayor Lempert said that Princeton is a world class University that continues to grow, and as the town is basically built out, she asked how will the University continue to grow and how will the town still retain its character?

Mr. Eisgruber responded that many also care about the character of the University as well as the community which is why the strategic plan and working with Urban Strategies to preserve the character and interaction with the town is so important.

Mr. Liverman asked if the University puts an emphasis on community service to the Princeton community.

Mr. Eisgruber responded that yes the emphasis for students is giving back, and that students are engaged in giving back to the community, but we can always look to do more to service the Princeton community.

Mr. Miller asked about how the University could improve travel time to New York City and make it more accessible to the students. Mr. Eisgruber said he would take any suggestions on how to do this as he is well aware of the frustrations with traveling into Penn Station. Mr. Miller suggested working with NJ Transit for a more direct train going from Princeton Junction to New York with few or no additional stops.

Ms. Crumiller said that a few years ago the former Borough Council discussed having a student liaison to Council and asked if Mr. Eisgruber supported this. He replied that the matter would be between Council and the Student Government Council but he does support the idea. Ms. Howard noted that a University student does attend the Board of Health meetings.

Ms. Howard said that since the Memorandum of Operating Procedures agreed to by Princeton Police and Princeton University Public Safety, communication and response seems to be going much better and she asked how do we make sure that the campus is as safe as possible for all students? Mr. Eisgruber stated that great strides have been made in this area and that the University adopted a set of practices under Title 9 in September at the recommendation of the joint faculty and student committee.

Ms. Butler asked Mr. Eisgruber if he had read the article in the New York Times concerning climate change and the use of endowment money? He responded that he did see the article, but this is not a President decision to make. The Resource Council of the University follows guidelines that must be met for endowment money and then it would be forwarded onto the Trustees of the University.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Eisgruber about building a cohesive vision between the municipality and the University. He asked whether Mr. Eisgruber had any early insights from the planning process to date, specifically with regard to any potential outcomes that may cause stress or friction between the University and the community. Mr. Eisgruber said as far as anticipated stresses, he does not know how the University will need to continue to grow, but does know a number of questions will be pending before them. He noted that the computer science course area has had large growth and they will have to look at either reusing or constructing new space. He also said that the University will have to ask itself when again it will expand its undergraduate student body. He continued, that the University cares about the texture and weave of our community and wants to continue to have channels of communications open through the process and also wants Urban Strategies to understand and recognize that as issues arise to

identify them early on. Mr. Simon asked about a time frame for the planning process. Mr. Eisgruber said that the task forces will be working through out and that by 2016 the Trustees will have a framework in place.

Mr. Durkee said that the University will have a campus planning website and that Urban Strategies will also be creating a website and blog and will be seeking comments from all who want to participate.

Mayor Lempert noted that the University announced today that the new dinky station will be opening on November 17th and asked how can we move forward and repair the difficulties that were caused by that move. Mr. Eisgruber responded, that he thinks it is a very good project and realizes that there are strong opinions about it, but is committed to making the Dinky project go as well as possible and thinks there are advantages to the new configuration, and hopes as the project and other aspects unfold, it will make Princeton a better place to live.

Ms. Crumiller asked Mr. Eisgruber if he believed the change in the location of the Dinky is an improvement in terms of mass transportation. Mr. Eisgruber said that in his opinion, and answering as a Dinky user, rather than on the academic research, he is looking forward to the changes that have been made, and is very enthusiastic about the project. Mr. Miller noted that the Memorandum of Understanding the previous Township, Borough and University had agreed to contained a portion that was to improve the utilization of the Dinky, and with the opening of the station on November 17th - now is the time to make that happen, he said.

Mayor Lempert thank President Eisgruber for attending.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Kathleen Brzezynski
Deputy Clerk