The Lawrenceville Community Process
About Us

• Mission: Improve and protect quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents
• Membership of 800+ residents
• Board of Directors comprised of residents: elected by membership
• Programs: Public Safety, PEP Rally, AdvantAGE, Farmers Market, Cleaning and Greening, Community Events, advocacy, and more.
About Us

• Mission: Serve as the catalyst and conduit for responsible growth and reinvestment in the Lawrenceville community.
• Membership of businesses
• Board of Directors comprised of residents, businesses, institutions
• Focus areas: 21st Century Business District, Market Maturity, EcoDistrict Communities, Riverfront
The Lawrenceville Community Process

Background

• Adopted in 2011
• Moved decision-making from Planning Team to more transparent and inclusive process
• Around 100 development projects and 50 liquor licenses have gone through the process
• Jointly facilitated by LU and LC
• Regional model
Goals

✓ Community knows what’s being proposed in Lawrenceville
✓ Community can provide direct feedback to LU and LC and is equipped to participate in public processes themselves
✓ Relationships built between businesses/owners and neighbors
✓ Get out front of potential issues
✓ Ensure compliance with community plans and priorities
✓ Build consensus around position on the project (support, oppose, etc.)
What Projects We Try to Take

Going through an existing public process:

- Zoning Board of Adjustments
- Planning Commission
- URA
- PA Liquor Control Board
- City Council
- Air quality permits through ACHD

*Exception: applications for medical marijuana dispensary/grow facility
What Projects We Try to Take

- 4 residential units or more
- Use: variances (and some special exceptions)
- New structures or expansions: 2,400 square feet or more
- Zoning change
- Liquor license application or transfer

OR...

- Has potential community-wide impact
How Projects Come To Us

Owner or project team reaches out

City Planning connects

LU / LC discovers by monitoring ZBA, Planning Commission, URA, PLCB Hot List, etc.
Clarifying LU and LC’s Role

• We are NOT affiliated with the project
• We do NOT recruit developers/business owners
• We have NO authority to intervene in private transactions of property. The community process only kicks in when there is a public process of some kind (typically a variance from the zoning code or a liquor license application)
Meeting between LU, LC and developer or business owner to share plans.

LU and LC gather and verify information, work to understand approvals necessary, and measure plan against current community plans and priorities.

An open and public community meeting is held to give the owner or developer a chance to present vision and plans to the community.

Community asks questions, identifies any concerns, gives input to LU and LC.

LU and LC attempt to work on any concerns, take position(s) on the project.
Getting the Word Out

✓ Flyer within 500 feet
✓ LU website
✓ LU e-newsletter
✓ LU Facebook, Nextdoor Lawrenceville
Community Meeting - Agenda

1. Review of Community Process & ground rules
2. Presentation from the project team
3. Facilitated Q&A
4. Closed door discussion
Ground Rules: be neighborly

1. Please hold all questions for the end of the presentation. We will go back to a slide if there is a specific question or comment, so please jot own notes that you may want to revisit when we open it for Q&A.

2. Once opened for Questions and Comments, please raise your hand and only proceed with your question or comment once you have been acknowledged by the facilitator. Please also identify yourself by name, and also your relationship or interest in the issue.

3. Please be respectful of all speakers, including those asking questions and making comments.

4. Questions/ comments will be limited to 2 minutes each. A clarification question or comment will be permitted.

5. If time permits, we will call on individuals who would like to ask or make a second or additional question or comment.

6. Please also use index cards available if you’d like to submit a comment or question but are not able to in the meeting. We will compile as part of notes from the meeting.

7. If the ground rules are violated or ignored, we will ask the individual to leave the meeting, and if it continues, we will end the meeting.
Positions We Take

- Support
- Support with conditions
- Oppose
- Neither support nor oppose
**Next Steps**

• Residents may turn in any questions they didn’t get time to ask and we will follow up to get them answered

• LU will post meeting notes on website and e-newsletter

• Residents encouraged to reach out to LU at 412-802-7220 or info@LUnited.org with any other questions or additional comments as we determine our position

• Any public meetings associated with the project will be shared with those in attendance