

Uniform company could be first tenant at Riverview Industrial Park

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The Reading Redevelopment Authority board has voted 3-0 to negotiate a sales agreement with the state's largest independent uniform and health care linen services company for a 7-acre property at its 50-acre Riverview Industrial Park in northwest Reading.

"Paris Companies would be our first corporate tenant at this prime industrial site and would build a large commercial laundry services operation there," said Adam Mukerji, executive director.

He noted that the Dubois, Clearfield County-based firm is under contract with Reading Hospital to do all its laundry, but the contract requires that the nearly 100-year-old firm build a laundry facility in the city.

"We want to sign the sales agreement by the end of the year," said Dennis W. Witwer, authority executive assistant.

The authority bought the 600-700 Clinton St. property near the Schuylkill Avenue Bridge at a sheriff's sale in 2013 for \$1.56 million.

In other business:

The board agreed to sell a vacant house at 140 N. Second St. to Neighborhood Housing Services for \$7,500. "We previously sold 144 N. Second St., which they rehabbed, and they'll do the same with this site," Witwer said.

Dennis Witwer noted that the authority is expected to close soon on a 0.7-acre site at Sixth and Bingaman streets for construction of a Family Dollar store.

Dennis Witwer reported that Dunkin' Donuts is looking to purchase land near Stoudt's Auto Supply Inc. along the Warren Street Bypass.

"I expect to see 24/7 activity there soon," Mukerji added.

Mr. Mukerji reported that the bicycle Pump Tracks project, a loop of dirt berms and mounds being created by ReDesign Reading Community Development Corp. at 924-932 Penn St. and 927 Cherry St., is progressing.

"It's a great community amenity for youngsters and bike-loving adults," he said.

The board accepted a proposal from Re/Max of Reading to market the industrial park. Associate Broker/Realtor Kent E. Wrobel and E. John Roach, Realtor, both with Re/Max, had made an informal presentation to the board in November, but the board lacked a quorum to act on it. Details were unavailable.