



Economic Development Commission - Richmond, Rhode Island

Meeting

Monday, March 14th 2022 at 6:00 pm

Richmond Community Center, 1168 Main Street (Second Floor), Wyoming, RI 02898

(401) 539-9000x9 / edcrichmondri@gmail.com

M I N U T E S

Members in attendance: William McIntosh, Bryan Lebeau, David Woodmansee

Guests in attendance: none

CALL TO ORDER at 6:04PM by William McIntosh

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from January 24, 2022

[MOTION to approve the minutes from January 24, 2022 by Bryan Lebeau, second David Woodmansee, ALL AYE]

OLD BUSINESS

1. Marketing Richmond Businesses Initiative

- a. Response from CHS

- b. Determine the next step

-William McIntosh to set meeting with Karen Pinch to determine website availability and budget opportunities

2. Presentation for Council

- a. SWOT Analysis

-WM: EDC should have a conversation with Shaun Lacey first. The State is not likely to approve the comprehensive plan as written.

3. Joint Meeting with Planning Board

- a. Confirmed date

- b. Identify and define key discussion points

-WM: as in #2 above, it is most important to meet with Shaun Lacey first. Once we have some direction, we can plan a meeting/workshop with the Planning Board.

-WM: Shaun will attend our April Meeting

4. Blight Housing

- a. Review letter to Zoning to requesting them address blight properties with potential ordinance

-Tabled until future meeting

5. Sponsorship - mailer /email - planning for signs and fields

-WM: EDC should request significant budget increase from council which will be necessary to implement plan of Richmond Business Initiative, How to Do Business in Richmond Guide, and marketing Richmond's currently vacant, available, and underused lots to realtors and developers. EDC should ask for \$10,000 but be willing to settle for \$5,000.

-BL: will research local towns to determine what their EDC budgets are to help develop one for Richmond

NEW BUSINESS

1. Renewal of Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce membership
[MOTION to approve the OCCC membership renewal by David Woodmansee, second William McIntosh, ALL AYE]

2. Preparing informational material (mailer/email) to send to RI Commerce Corp
 - a. Review list of underused parcels
-WM: mailer is contingent on development of the list and all advertising must be approved by Town Council
-WM: the goal is to have 19 new businesses in 10 years. Two per year is a very attainable goal and it is better to under-promise and over-deliver.
 - b. Develop communication

3. EDC members representing Commission
-DW: I was speaking with a councilperson on an issue and was asked if my thoughts were my own as a taxpayer or if I was representing the EDC with my position. I replied that what I was saying was congruent with the discussions that we have had as an EDC but we had not voted and did not have an official position on the issue. It is important that the EDC be kept aware of projects and applications in town and able to discuss them in order to have an official position as we speak with Town Council, etc.
-BM: has an up-to-date approval packet that he provide. EDC should request a list of projects (2022) and “approve” the to show official support.
-DW: will put a generic item on each agenda going forward for the planner to discuss projects. He will be able to attend any meeting where he is available and update EDC with changes, etc.

PUBLIC FORUM

-DW questioned what is happening with Wendy’s location as rumors are very active recently; Chic-fil-a had been a frontrunner but now the scuttle was all about Starbucks. William McIntosh replied that everyone is “on the list” as Tom Simjian has been offering the location to everyone on behalf of the owner. Some applications have been filed at the town hall on behalf of Starbucks.

-WM presented a map from the 2020 Comprehensive Plan marking where it may benefit the town to extend the water line from Richmond School to the water resources lot across from the Richmond Airport. It would be a downhill run and would save significant money on the development of an additional pump house. Item will be placed on the April agenda.

CALL TO ADJOURN

[MOTION to adjourn by David Woodmansee, second by William McIntosh, ALL AYE]

The public is welcome to any open meeting of the Town Council or its committees. If communication assistance [readers/interpreters/captions] is needed or any other accommodations to insure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerks Office at least [3] business days prior to the meeting at [401\) 539-9000 ext.9](tel:4015399000)