MEETING MINUTES PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 5, 2013	Discover Portsmouth Center	10 Middle St.	7:30 a.m.
Members Present:		a Levenson, Robert Marchewka, Chris	
Excused: Absent:	John Bosen, Jack Thorsen, Eri John Pratt Josh Cyr	c Gregg, Philip Cohen, Ron Zolla, Joh	n P. Bohenko

Chairman Eaton opened the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

Welcome by Maryellen Burke, Executive Director, Discover Portsmouth Center (DPC)

Maryellen Burke was unable to attend so Joel Harris, Chair of the DPC Development Committee, substituted for her in welcoming the EDC to the facility. He provided information about the mission of the DPC, recent building rehabilitation projects and the current programming. He mentioned the organization's five-year strategic plan and the subleases they have with the Star Island Corporation, the Seacoast African American Cultural Center and the recent consolidation with the Marine Society and Portsmouth Athenaeum Boards of Directors.

Approval of draft meeting minutes of March 15, 2013

Following a motion by Commissioner Bosen and a second by Commissioner Dwyer, the draft meeting minutes of March 15, 2013 were unanimously approved as written.

Old Business

Review EDC feedback on Worth Parking Lot frequently asked questions (FAQs)

The EDC discussed the revised FAQs which included data on the High Hanover Parking Garage since 2009. Also discussed was the Parking Traffic and Safety (PTS) Committee's progress on recommendations to the City Council on a site for a second parking garage downtown. The Committee will be discussing a proposed plan at its meeting next week. The group *Portsmouth Listens* has offered to hold deliberative sessions on the topic as a means to broaden public discourse, which to date, has been contentious. Some EDC members expressed a desire for the City Council to make a decision soon as the need for additional downtown parking continues to increase. There was discussion about public input to the City Council on the topic and a suggestion was made to weigh the input from residents and property owners more heavily than that of commenters from out of town who do not own property locally. The consensus was to provide the revised FAQs to the PTS Committee, post the FAQs online and continue to monitor the PTS recommendations.

Report on January 30th Workforce Housing Coalition Charrette for Rock St. Garage Area (postponed from March 15th meeting).

Ms. Carmer provided handouts of two design concepts that emerged from the January 30th charrette on the Rock Street Garage and surrounding areas. During the public input sessions, the stakeholders identified the themes of neighborhood safety, accessibility to North Mill Pond, parking, and more open/green space with views to the North Mill Pond. Although the charrette was a hypothetical exercise to explore workforce housing opportunities, the recommendations that emerged from the process included the following:

- Encourage the city to demolish the Rock Street Garage.
- Forge public/private partnerships for development of 10-20 units of workforce housing.
- Participate in the upcoming Citywide Master Plan update and suggest a comprehensive mini- master plan for the area.
- Create a zoning overlay to include recommendations from the charrette where feasible.
- Work with the railroad to secure land or easements for access to North Mill Pond and for additional

parking.

Other Business

Local technology business update – Josh Cyr This item was postponed to the May EDC meeting as Mr. Cyr was unable to attend the meeting.

Market Street Gateway Improvement Project update

Ms. Carmer informed the Commission that the City received eight proposals for the gateway project which involves construction design and permitting for this next phase of the gateway from Kearsarge Way to the Albacore Park. Three firms have been short-listed and will be interviewed on April 9th.

Discover Portsmouth Center update and site Tour

Mr. Harris provided a tour of the facility for the EDC. Chairman Eaton thanked him and provided him with a token of appreciation.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to provide comment.

Confirm Next Meeting: Friday, May 3, 2013.

<u>Adjourn – the meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.</u>

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Carmer Economic Development Program Manager