

DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
July 29, 2022 7:30 AM

Members Present: Philip Cohen; Chair, Tom Watson, Andrew Ward, Jacob Lehoux, Sarah Lachance, , Anne Weidman, City Councilor; Vince Lombardi, Assistant Mayor; JoAnna Kelley (Z); Katelyn Kwoka(Z); Ben VanCamp

Absent: Everett Eaton, Alan Gold; Vice-Chair, Bob Marchewka

City Staff: City Manager; Karen Conard, Asst. City Manager for Economic Development; Sean Clancy

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:40 AM

Minutes - Approval of draft meeting minutes of June 3, 2022 – Motion made by *Commissioner Lachance* seconded by *Commissioner Watson*. Motion to approve amended minutes passed unanimously.

Working Group Updates:

Business Retention and Expansion Survey – *Sean Clancy* advised that the BR&E Survey team has been working with the UNH Survey Center and that a first draft of the survey is now available. *Councilor Lombardi* asked if the first draft could be shared with the entire EDC and this was agreed to. *Sean Clancy* will forward draft and relevant email exchange to full EDC within one week.

Land Use Committee (LUC) Liaison – *Assistant Mayor Kelley* advised that the LUC is focused on simplifying Accessory Dwelling Unit permitting process.

New/Other Business:

- Chamber President *Ben Van Camp* updated the EDC on the following:
 - Tourism Season is in full swing:
 - Hotels, Restaurants, and Retailers report positive results – “good summer” to date
 - Hotels report that larger corporate groups are booking meeting space mid-week

There were questions about mining data on tourists as well as finding specific spending by zip codes. This data is hard to get and expensive to purchase.

City Council Update:

- Counselor Lombardi advised that many spending requests have been approved by City Council:
 - Prescott Park Master plan, phase I regarding coastal resiliency
 - School Facilities and teacher compensation (CBA negotiations concluded)

Also, the City Council has agreed to schedule an ARPA funds work session in the near future

Presentation by Director of Planning – Beverly Mesa-Zendt

Director Mesa-Zendt provided an overview of the (many) development project in process. As expected a high percentage of new developments are residential and mixed use commercial space. EDC members were interested to know if a city-wide map of development projects could be created and made available on the website (?) Commissioner Lachance inquired about a traffic study for Route 1/Lafayette Road due to the volume of completed and planned development (?)

Next Meeting Schedule for September 9, 2022

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Lombardi, seconded by Commissioner Weidman.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Clancy

Assistant City Manager for Economic Development