

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
September 8, 2023                      7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

**Members Present:** Chair Phil Cohen, Bob Marchewka, Sarah Lachance, Anne Weidman, Anna Howard, Tom Watson, Everett Eaton, Jacob Lehoux,, Andrew Ward, Ben VanCamp, City Councilor Vince Lombardi

**Absent:** Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley

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

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*Chair Cohen* called the meeting to order at 7:34 Am.

Motion to accept the minutes of the August 4th meeting with no changes made by *Councilor Lombardi*, seconded by *Commissioner Lachance*, passed unanimously.

*Councilor Lombardi* provided an update on the EDC Ordinance effort. The new ordinance was approved by City Council at the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Congratulations to all involved in the ordinance revision.

*Councilor Lombardi* asked that we EDC Chair review the new “term language” and confirm that the pending appointment be aligned accordingly.

Land Use Liaison – *Commissioner Marchewka* reported that the Land Use Committee is currently reviewing Gateway Districts and exploring the ability to expand them for future development specifically around the issue of “affordable housing”. (For more information, please see Land Use Comm. Video recording).

Chamber Collaborative Updates:

- The Chamber Collaborative has held joint events with new partners; BAPOC and Seacoast Outright (LGBTQ+ with great success).
- The Chamber is planning a Women in leadership series (stay tuned).
- The Chamber is asking for Business Award Nominees for a fall event – see Chamber website for more information.

Office of Economic Development Updates:

- City Council voted to establish a new Arts and Culture Commission at the September 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. The expectation is that this Commission will operate in a similar fashion to the EDC. Sean Clancy is the staff liaison assigned to the A&CC.
- The 2023 Cultural Plan effort is in full swing with our consultant Arts Consulting Group ACG. ACG will be “on the ground” October 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> to conduct live Focus Group sessions. The goal is to hear from approximately 100 participants.

- The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Economic Impact study will be released on Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Save the Date: PNH400 Community Picnic is scheduled for Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 12 Noon - 3:00 PM @ Leary Field.

Outdoor Dining Recommendations: The Memo to City Council was distributed prior to the meeting and posted on-line. The EDC voted to send the final recommendations (memo) to City Council as a report out at the September 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Motion to move recommendations forward was made by *Commissioner Watson*, seconded by *Commissioner Weidman*, and passed unanimously.

*Chair Cohen* will attend to present the memo and EDC comments. (Please see recording for specifics).

*Councilor Lombardi* led a conversation about requiring sustainable restaurant practices on city owned property and the EDC chose to endorse this issue to be taken up by City Council if they so choose.

*Chair Cohen* introduced the issue of a vacant vice-chair position on the EDC and asked for any recommendation/motions to nominate any current members. *Commissioner Lachance* made a motion nominating *Commissioner Watson* to fill the vice-chair position through the end of calendar year pending a new vote for officers scheduled for January 2024. *Commissioner Weidman* seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

*Commissioner Marchewka* complimented the City staff (DPW, Safety, Legal) on all the construction (public and private) that is underway and keeping roadways open and safe while the critical work gets done. (See recording for more details)

Director of Parking, Ben Fletcher, presented an overview of our parking and transportation division and current status of parking utilization and year-to-date revenues. (See recording for more detail)

Motion to adjourn made by *Commissioner Eaton*, seconded by *Commissioner Weidman*, motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,  
*Sean Clancy*  
Assistant City Manager for Economic Development