

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

June 16, 2023 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Members Present: Chair Phil Cohen, Vice Chair Alan Gold, Bob Marchewka, Sarah Lachance, Anne Weidman, Andrew Ward, Everett Eaton, Anna Howard (Zoom), Jacob Lehoux, City Councilor Vince Lombardi, Ben VanCamp (Zoom),

Absent: Assistant Mayor JoAnna Kelley, Tom Watson

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

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM

Minutes - Approval of draft meeting minutes of May 5, 2023 – Motion made by *Commissioner Ward*, seconded by *Councilor Lachance*. Motion to approve draft minutes passed unanimously.

Working Group Updates:

Land Use Liaison – The Land Use Committee reviewed available city owned parcels for affordable housing development and sent a list of four to the City Council to consider.

Charter/Mission Review – The ordinance change request sent to City Council was reviewed by the City’s Legal Department and the City Council Governance Committee. The original proposal was presented to the City Council at the May 15th meeting (reference page 164-165 of City Council packet). The latest draft was circulated to the EDC just prior to the meeting. The EDC will schedule a “noticed” meeting to review and finalize the ordinance language and then move it forward to the City Council for adoption.

Office of Economic Development Update:

- The City/Chamber/Small Business Administration co-sponsored event highlighting our Small Businesses was well received. It may become an annual event.
- The Americans For The Arts (AFTA) survey has completed the data collection phase. We expect initial results in the Fall and then a formal presentation from AFTA in December or January. In 2017, our Arts and Cultural venues contributed \$58 million in economic activity to our business community.
- The City signed a contract with Arts Consulting Group to work with the Arts & Non-Profit/Cultural Subcommittee on preparing a new Cultural plan. The target completion date is December 2023. The consultant will work with the Office of Econ. Dev. as project lead.

Chamber Update: *Chamber President Van Camp*

- The Business Appreciation Annual Dinner, *Streetlife* will take place on August, 15, 2023 and it is sold out (900 tickets).
- The Tourist Season is in full swing and Chamber staff will use this time to establish plans for the future.

City Council Update:

Councilor Lombardi reiterated that the Governance Committee reviewed and suggested slight changes to the proposed EDC ordinance language changes.

Outdoor Dining Presentation (posted on EDC Meeting Notice)

The Commissioners reviewed the working group’s presentation, asked questions, and shared concerns and considerations that will be addressed in the next working group session. Details can be viewed on EDC Meeting recording (June 16, 2023)

Public Comment – Outdoor Dining

During “public comment” members of the public who were present for the outdoor dining presentation asked questions, shared concerns (including safety & equity), and offered additional considerations to the EDC. Details can be viewed on EDC Meeting recording (June 16, 2023)

New Business:

Chair Cohen announced that the EDC has been contacted regarding a request to investigate efforts to attract cruise ships to Portsmouth. An email was sent to the requester, and they were advised that the EDC will address this request once the outdoor dining recommendation efforts have been completed.

Adjourn

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

Next Meeting

July 14, 2023

Submitted by,
Sean Clancy
Assistant City Manager for Economic Development