

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

August 4, 2023 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

**Members Present:** Chair Phil Cohen, Vice Chair Alan Gold, Bob Marchewka, Sarah Lachance, Anne Weidman, Anna Howard, Tom Watson, Everett Eaton, Jacob Lehoux, City Councilor Vince Lombardi, Assistant Mayor JoAnna Kelley, Ben VanCamp

**Absent:** Andrew Ward

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

---

*Chair Cohen* called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM

*Chair Cohen* recognized Vice Chair Alan Gold's service and exceptional commitment to the EDC and the and the City of Portsmouth as a whole. Vice Chair Gold has resigned from the Economic Development Commission due to his residency change effective August 15, 2023.

Motion to accept the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with no changes made by *Commissioner Marchewka*, seconded by *Councilor Lombardi*, passed unanimously.

*Commissioner Eaton* requested a downtown parking update monthly. The group was able to clarify the four pieces of data would be appropriate: 1. High-Hanover Garage average utilization, 2. High-Hanover instances of closure (full), 3. Foundry Garage average utilization, Foundry Garage instances of closure (full).

*Councilor Lombardi* provided an update on the EDC Ordinance effort. It has been reviewed by the Legal Department and passed through the Governance Committee. It will be taken up by the City Council in August.

Land Use Liaison – *Commissioner Marchewka* and *Assistant Mayor Kelley* advised that the Land Use Committee had not met since the last EDC meeting. Next Land Use meeting scheduled for August 4, 2023.

Office of Economic Development Updates:

- The Americans For The Arts (AFTA) Survey is complete and we expect to have preliminary data sometime in October. The previous AFTA Survey (2017) determined the Seacoast Arts and Culture Venues provided a \$58 million dollar impact to our local economy. It will be very interesting to see what the survey illuminates this year.
- The 2023 Cultural Plan effort is in full swing with our consultant Arts Consulting Group. The committee and consultant will be launching an online on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a City sponsored Parking Utilization Study underway. *Assistant City Manager Clancy* is a participant in this group and will update the EDC going forward.

Chamber Collaborative Updates:

- SteetLife400 is scheduled for Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup>. Dinner for 900 people!
- The Chamber Collaborative has established (new) partnerships with BAPOC and Seacoast Outright. Joint programming will be coming soon with the goal to increase access for these groups to benefit from the Chamber efforts and for existing members to benefit from the efforts of these groups. This is similar to the Chamber's partnership with Catapult (the young professional network).

*Councilor Lombardi* provided a brief update including progress being made on a Conditional Use Permit, PTS addressing one-way streets in the downtown area, the Governance Committee proposing staggered board and commission appointments to insure better continuity of boards and commissions. *Councilor Lombardi* also provided an overview of the "One Congress" street improvement plans (or thoughts) from McNabb Properties, as well as a glowing review of National night Out activities and finally a reminder that the Election Filing dates are 8/30/23-9/13/23.

Outdoor Dining Recommendations: review of previous recommendations continued, and additional refinements were offered. (Please see recording for specifics).

*Chair Cohen* summarized the next steps which are to integrate the minor changes agreed upon and convert the "working" PowerPoint presentation (draft) into a formal memorandum which will be reviewed and voted on by the entire EDC (9/8/23 meeting) and then presented to the City Council for consideration.

Motion to create formal memorandum on Outdoor Dining recommendations made by *Commissioner Lachance*, seconded by *Commissioner Lahoux*, passed unanimously.

Public Comment – several members of the public spoke regarding the EDC's outdoor dining conversation as well as additional general topics regarding the current state of outdoor dining and the City of Portsmouth in general. (Please see recording for specifics).

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

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