



## CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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James H. Gailey  
City Manager

EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT

### MINUTES

#### Economic Development Committee

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

**6:00 to 8:00 PM**

**City Hall – Lower Level Conference Room**

#### Attendees:

Sergio Gadder – District 2  
Peter Stocks - District 4  
Steve Bushey - At-Large  
John Schwartzman - At-Large

Craig Gorris - Business  
Bob O'Brien - Business  
Mike Valincourt - Business

Jon Jennings – Assistant City Manager

#### Absent:

Dave Owen - District 1  
Martin Macisso - District 3  
William Collins - District 5

Ed Palmer - Business

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Economic Plan

Karl Seidman, consultant from MIT, presented to the Committee about his response to the RFP for a comprehensive Economic Development Plan. Mr. Seidman discussed his background, experience and qualifications. He mentioned he worked with Portland on their ED Plan. His background is in ED Plan development, real estate market and feasibility studies.

He described his approach to the developing an ED Plan. He believes a regional approach with South Portland being the focus is important. Quality of place is very important as well as amenities in a community.

He discussed the process for the development of the ED plan. Initial meetings with stakeholders such as the City Council, residents, business leaders in order

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to develop a SWOT analysis. Following steps would be to vet an initial report with the community for input leading to a final report.

Sergio Gaddar and Peter Stocks discussed the use of MIT students as part of the process. Seidman said he can envision some students helping, but did not guarantee that would occur. Steve Bushey mentioned that focus of the plan was important. Seidman said the best ED plans are rooted in concrete goals rather than aspirations.

### 3. General Update

- Hamlin School
- Armory
- Senior Housing on Running Hill Road
- Crab Circle Kitchen (Dorchester, MA) was discussed as an example of a community developing the needed resources for small entrepreneurs to be successful.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Cordially,

Jon P. Jennings  
Assistant City Manager