



EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

P. O. Box 9422
25 Cottage Road
South Portland, ME 04116-9422

James H. Gailey
City Manager

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Thursday, October 8, 2015

7:00 PM

City Hall – City Manager's Office

Attendees:

David Schneider - District 1
Ross Little – District 2
Peter Stocks - District 4
Bob O'Brien - Business
Jim Gailey – City Manager
Josh Reny – Asst. City Manager

Absent:

Ed Palmer – Business	Greg Perry - District 3
William Collins - District 5	Craig Gorris - Business
Steve Bushey - At-Large	Justin Leblanc - Business
Vacant - At-Large	Fawn Dunphy - Business

1. Approval of Minutes (Quorum was not present)
2. Economic Development Plan Discussion

Karl – Did a brief recap of October 1st community workshop

Peter – Recapped some of the themes that came from his table

Ross – Brought up the internet/3-ring binder high speed service

Group – Talked about some issues they heard from participants

Group – Talked about Councilors participating in the next workshop and whether that was good or bad.

Group – Talked about where the majority of the participation came from in relationship those who took the survey.

Karl – Discussed the preliminary findings to date and community support around each item.

Karl – Listed four common themes:

1. Branding/Marketing
 - a. Market City (not for tourism)
 - b. Be active in regional real estate (prospecting)
 - c. Visit existing businesses
 - d. How to do it – Non-profit corporation running econ dev.
2. Entrepreneurial/Small Business Development
 - a. Grow your own vs. trying to attract
 - b. Corporation taking lead and running trainings
 - c. Local awards program
 - d. Help promote more sustainable practices
3. Workforce Development
 - a. Work with various agencies to develop and train people
 - b. Create a career ladder approach
 - c. Direct businesses to access training
 - d. Create an expanded career program at schools
4. Promote Development of Underutilized Sites
 - a. Reach out to property owners and potentially court them with incentives and/or capable developer

Ross – Asked about the concept of a non-profit economic development corporation and how it would relate to the Asst. Manager's position now. Where does money come from if a corporation is established?

David – How many employees are typically brought on? Karl answered at least 1.5 people

Peter – Asked about TIF's and the background of TIF's

Karl – Will write up a summary of the Committee discussion and share with other committee members not in attendance

Next community workshop – November 17th from 6-8pm at Community Center

Adjourned: 8:55 pm

Cordially,

Jim Gailey, City Manager