



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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James H. Gailey
City Manager

EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

6:00 to 8:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers

Attendees:

Dave Owen – District 1	Mike Vaillancourt - Business
Sergio Gadder – District 2	Bob O'Brien - Business
Martin Macisso - District 3	
Steve Bushey – At-large	
John Schwartzman – At-Large	Jon Jennings – Assistant City Manager

Absent:

Peter Stocks – District 4	Ed Palmer - Business
William Collins – District 5	Craig Gorris - Business

1. Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2013 (6-0)
2. Growth TIF

Jon Jennings updated the Committee on the proposed Growth TIF. The TIF has been updated and is expected to go to the Council in early 2014. The Committee agreed with the need for the TIF and supported going forward to the Council. Dave Owen discussed the need for redevelopment on Route 1. Sergio Gadder discussed creating greater public access to the waterfront including water transportation such as water taxis.

3. Brownfields Discussion

Jennings briefed the Committee on the City's application. There was an overall discussion on sites in South Portland. Dave Owen said it was very important for the City to develop a process to educate the City on

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Brownfields and overall impact on the community. All agreed this was needed if the grant application is successful.

4. Comprehensive Plan Implementation

The Committee was briefed on the progress made to date by the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. He mentioned there is a lot of work still to do, but work has begun.

5. Economic Development 5 and 10 year plan

Jennings asked the Committee if they support the idea of developing a comprehensive economic development plan for the City in increments of 5 and 10 years. Committee members said it was important to development a road map that will guide the City in terms of economic expansion and creativity. John Schwartzman said the development of a economic development plan is vital. Dave Owen said it was important to get members of the community involved in the process.

6. Business/ED Awards Event

The Committee discussed the creation of a ED Awards event for city businesses similar to what other municipalities. Members thought it a good idea to explore. Jennings said he will get more information and report back to the Committee.

7. Other

The Committee was updated on progress on the Solar Farm concept. The feasibility study is currently underway and will report back to Committee when completed. The Committee discussed the creation of an Arts/Historical Commission and were updated on the recent meeting with Congresswoman Pingree's staff.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Cordially,

Jon P. Jennings
Assistant City Manager