



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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

James H. Gailey
City Manager

EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

6:00 to 8:00 PM

City Hall – Lower Conference Room

Attendees:

Sergio Gadder – District 2
Martin Macisso - District 3
John Schwartzman – At-Large
William Collins – District 5

Bob O'Brien - Business
Ed Palmer - Business

Jon Jennings – Assistant City Manager

Absent:

Dave Owen - District 1
Peter Stocks – District 4
Steve Bushey – At-large

Craig Gorris - Business
Mike Vaillancourt - Business

1. Approval of Minutes from December 18, 2013 (5-0)
2. Economic Development Plan 5 and 10 year plan

The Committee discussed the need for an overall ED Plan for the City. The consensus was to take a regional approach and to look at each section of the City and how it relates to the overall character. The Committee stressed the uniqueness of the neighborhoods and cultural aspects.

Several recommendations were made.

- Important to look at new ideas for City
- Important to piggy back on cultural explosion in Portland and stress the inclusion of the foody sector.
- Assessment of need for city investment.
- The need for broad based access to the Internet.

- Focus on energy issues and how we can reduce costs including an overall sustainability plan for the City.
- The continued need to look at public transportation and access.
- Foreign Trade and how it can encourage investment in the City
- Master planning for waterfront
- Need for Cross Town Road to alleviate traffic
- Widening of Broadway
- Educational opportunities in City
- Business growth can reduce the tax burden on homeowners
- Housing Ideas

The Committee discussed the need for an inclusive process in developing the overall economic development plan. Jennings said he will report back on progress being made to hire a consultant to help with the process of developing the plan.

3. Entertainment Opportunities

Jennings discussed entertainment opportunities in the City with the agreement with John Cacoulidis to develop a performing arts center. The consensus of the Committee was to use this as an opportunity that may lead to a city owned venue in the future.

4. Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Jennings briefed the Committee on the latest on the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. He updated Committee members on the progress made to date on Mill Creek and Knightville.

5. Other

- The Committee discussed the proposed Main Street improvements. Bill Collins suggested some of proceeds from the sale of city owned property should go to Wilkinson Park.
- Economic Development Awards Event: the Committee agreed this is a good idea that is worth pursuing. The tentative timing is for an event in early fall.
- Sergio discussed the growth of Brunswick Landing and success in finalizing tenants.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Cordially,

Jon P. Jennings
Assistant City Manager