



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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James H. Gailey
City Manager

EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, June 19, 2013
6:00 to 8:00 PM
City Hall – Council Chambers

Attendees:

John Schwartzman – At-large
Sergio Gadder – District 2
Martin Macisso – District 3
Peter Stocks – District 4
William Collins – District 5

Ed Palmer – Business
Mike Vaillancourt - Business
Craig Gorris - Business
Tom Turner - GPEDC

Jon Jennings – Assistant City Manager
Tex Haeuser – Planning Director

Absent:

Steve Bushey – At-Large
Dave Owen – District 1
Bob O'Brien - Business

1. Approval of Minutes 5-0
2. Mill Creek Update with Tex Haeuser

Tex discussed the relationship and process the city has undertaken with Sustain Southern Maine as it relates to Mill Creek. Tex discussed several master plan ideas for the area and showed detailed renderings of what has been discussed in several community meetings. The committee discussed various ideas for the area and was glad city staff is undertaking such an effort.

3. Update on Way-finding Project

Jon gave a quick update on the progress made on way-finding signage in the city. He gave each committee member renderings of the final design

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of the signs. Martin and others liked the idea of calling Knightville/Mill Creek "Downtown" on the signs. There was overall approval by the committee on the design of the signage.

4. Economic Development Conference Concept

Jon discussed the idea of hosting an Economic Development Conference in the fall. The idea is to host developers, site selection consultants and others to interest them in available property in the city. Jon said he would bring back to the committee more specifics at a later date. Overall, the committee expressed interest in more details. Tom Turner, executive director of the Greater Portland Economic Development Committee was in attendance. He discussed his experience with ED conferences. He also discussed the concept of a Foreign Trade Zone in the region for businesses who import/export.

5. SPC-TV Business Show

Jon discussed an idea of developing a SPC-TV based business show that would highlight local businesses in South Portland. Martin and Mike expressed interest in being involved. A follow up meeting with Tony Vigue of SPC-TV will be scheduled.

6. Other

Bill Collins asked if the committee can be briefed on plans for Main Street. Peter Stocks suggested the city put together a white paper or forum to help explain the Tar Sands issue facing the city. Jon gave a brief update on the Buy Local initiative. He also reported that the city's re-application for Certified Business Friendly status with DECD had been submitted and waiting for a decision.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Cordially,

Jon P. Jennings
Assistant City Manager