



EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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

Scott Morelli
City Manager

DRAFT MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

6:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers

Attendees:

Ross Little – District 2
Stephen Bushey – District 3
Bruce Bennett – District 5
Joshua Reny – Asst. City Manager

Joel Ouellette – District 2
Peter Stocks – District 4
Bob O'Brien – Business

Guests:

Craig Gorris, Maine Mall

Adam Nyhan, Opticliff Law

Absent:

Martha Riehle – District 1
Brandon Mitchell – Business
Fawn Dunphy – Business

David Schneider – District 1
Ed Palmer – Business

1. Committee Chair Ross Little called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. Minutes – Motion by Stocks second by O'Brien to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting. All in favor.
3. Ross welcomed guest speaker Craig Gorris, GM of the Maine Mall, and Adam Nyhan. Craig spoke about some of the current challenges as the retail industry, and particularly some of the larger chain stores, adapt to a changing market. He discussed a variety of changes that are underway or anticipated, and opportunities for new investment and growth in the future. In the coming months there are likely to be announcements of businesses closing and new businesses opening or expanding. There is a lot of investment happening around the mall area and the potential for new housing in the general area will be a good thing.
4. Project Updates – Bruce invited everyone to attend a community engagement event in the West End on Friday, July 6. The City is co-sponsoring the event and

many community leaders and public officials have been invited. There will be food and a cultural performance. Adam updated the group on the upcoming Maine Startup and Create Week. The event is a week long, and on the Monday there is a Mixpo event at Cloudport that Committee members may want to attend. Bob and Joel plan to be there on Tuesday morning. Josh will be attending Food Launch on Thursday of that week. Adam discussed the Pitch SoPo event with the Committee. There is a task list that will be emailed. Josh and Ross committed to reaching out to some banks to identify a primary event sponsor. It is estimated that about \$6,000 will be needed to have a successful event with modest prize money to award.

5. EDC/Council Workshop – On June 26 the Committee will have an opportunity to speak with the City Council about the need to increase capacity to do the work outlined in the 2016 Economic Development Strategic Plan. The City’s Consultant, Karl Seidman, will give a presentation describing the goals and tasks, and providing some comparative data from other Communities. He will describe the various models, including public-private partnerships and municipal ED offices. Committee members are encouraged to attend and make their recommendations.
6. Adjournment – Motion by Stocks seconded by Bushey to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. All in favor.