



EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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Scott Morelli
City Manager

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

6:00 PM

City Hall – Lower Conference Room

Meeting cancelled due to absence of a quorum. The following notes were kept for record.

1. Bob O'Brien briefed those in attendance on Pitch York County. He attended the event last month. It was sponsored by Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank and there was \$5,000 in prize money. Five companies pitched before the judges – those companies had advanced through preliminary rounds. Interestingly, none of the businesses had to be from York County. Adam Nyhan from Opticliff Law (a patent, trademark, and business startup firm in Portland) was the organizer and he indicated an interest in organizing a Pitch SoPo event in the fall. Adam is a South Portland resident and one of the contributors to our Economic Development report. The Pitch event will need sponsors, publicity, and event spaces. This should be discussed at next month's EDC meeting.
2. Joel Ouellette gave an update on the Portland Food Fest at Thompson's point. A team has been meeting to plan an event that will focus on helping food industry entrepreneurs and will coincide with Maine Start Up and Create Week in the Spring. Joel believes the City could be helpful with the regulatory focus, which includes licensing, permitting, zoning, etc. Josh has indicated that staff may be able to create a handout that frames the process and requirements. Additional discussion is needed.
3. Ross Little proposed organizing a startup business event later in the Spring. This could potentially be a meet and greet style event at SMCC with SBDC, SBA, bankers, etc. to talk about sources of funding and steps to start a new business. Initial feedback is that it's a great idea, but the timing may be off. Ross mentioned perhaps inviting Craig Gorris, Manager of the Maine Mall, to discuss the local economy in the west end, and the future of retail. Craig has indicated he would be pleased to meet with the Committee. Ross proposed inviting Adam Nyhan in May and Craig Gorris in June.