



Minutes
October 5, 2022

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:37
- b. EDC Commissioners: Jason Rusk, Margaret Hirsch, Annemarie Seifert, Matthew Longino, Nishant Sahoo
- c. City Council:
- d. Staff: Cierra Patrick

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of September 7, 2022
 - i. Motion: Nishant Sahoo
 - ii. Second: Matthew Longino
 - iii. Decision: For: 5-0-0: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Margaret Hirsch, Nishant Sahoo, Annemarie Seifert; Against: None; Abstained: None

IV. Public Comments ~ 3 minutes per person

V. New Business

a. Nominations for EDC Positions

- i. Nishant Sahoo – Chair
- ii. Margaret Hirsch – Vice Chair
- iii. Secretary – Matthew Longino

b. Propose Slate of EDC Roles

- i. Motion: Jason Rusk
- ii. Second: Matthew Longino
- iii. Decision: For: 5-0-0: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Margaret Hirsch, Nishant Sahoo, Annemarie Seifert; Against: None; Abstained: None

VI. Old Business

a. Bludot Business Outreach Platform

- i. People do not appear to have issues using the system
- ii. A trigger for recording a contact would be a conversation with a business. If a business profile needs to be created, that can be done, otherwise add to an existing business profile.
 - I. Consider revisiting the business spotlight video project and focus on businesses on Poquonnock Rd.
- iii. Cierra Patrick has been doing business outreach and will be updating the Bludot platform.

b. Staff Report:

- i. Economic Development Grant Program



- I. Minor Façade Improvements Grant Application from Ritchard Fox for the repair and replacement of awnings at 112 and 116 North St. Move to approve the grant application to reimburse \$2500.00.
 - a. Motion: Jason Rusk
 - b. Second: Nishant Sahoo
 - c. Discussion: This grant would reimburse the total cost of the project. Should we reimburse the total amount of the project. There is not a provision for a business owner match in the grant document, currently. The motion will proceed as originally stated.
 - d. Decision: For: 5-0-0: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Margaret Hirsch, Nishant Sahoo, Annemarie Seifert; Against: None; Abstained: None
 2. A discussion followed about the scope of the Minor Façade Improvements Grant and whether it should be limited to the TIF district or could be extended to business districts adjacent to the TIF district. The above business is in an area adjacent to the TIF district
 3. The grant application will be taken to the City Council meeting on October 24th.
 4. Cierra Patrick has contacted several City companies to discuss opportunities for façade improvement projects
 - a. Businesses are working on getting estimates for work for improvements and enhancements to their buildings
 - i. One possible improvement led to a discussion about the indicated use of the grants – improvements vs maintenance to the building. This will be discussed further within the EDC subcommittee.
 - b. Businesses on Bridge Street also asked about who is responsible for maintenance of the landscaping along Bridge Street – Pfizer’s Green Team, Parks and Recreation, or business owners could be responsible.
- ii. TIF
 1. No update
 - iii. Report on Projects in the City
 1. There is some interest by developers in properties in the Thames St, Bridge St, and Five Corners areas.
 2. The Planning & Zoning commission will be discussing zoning regulations in coming meetings to better understand how the regulation (the rules) help develop goals highlighted within the Plan of Conservation and Development (the community vision)
 - iv. Presentations/Workshops



- I. Committee of the Whole Presentation October 24th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 - a. Will present Mr. Fox's grant application
 - b. Will discuss the Birch Plain Creek Trail extension
 - c. Reviewing the Community Engagement Tools to be used for community discussion
 - d. Next steps for P&Z and Economic Development staff activities
2. COG Planning & Economic Development Update/Workshop November 3rd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Tentative)
- v. Committees
 - I. The EDC will revisit the current committees at next month's meeting
- vi. Communications
 - I. Nothing to report

VII. Additions to Agenda

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Moved: Nishant Sahoo
- b. Seconded: Matthew Longino
- c. Decision: For: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Nishant Sahoo, Annemarie Siefert; Against: None; Abstained: None

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM

Submitted by: Margaret G Hirsch