

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Jacob Testa, Chris Klose (Secretary), Marty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Executive Director, Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce)

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Dan Budd, the Minutes of the Meeting of April 22, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- **Coronavirus Update** – Chair Dousharm: update from Ed on Village; Ed: 2X/week conference calls re: coronavirus impact to postpone Hardscrabble Day festival, especially music; replace, if possible, with a block party; Dan, pls fill us in on local farm supply;

Jacob: Spiegeltent won't occur this summer at Bard; plan is to re-open in the fall with in-person classes/as much activity on campus as possible, but it depends on what happens statewide and nationally – if opening up, then there'll be an opportunity; stay tuned for official announcement.

Dan: Business status = little bit the same but some days very scary/unsustainable—up and down; restaurants are adapting but “wicked hard;” doing promotions for family dinner pickups/order online in advance which would leave more time for prepping, less in taking orders; very difficult to offer discounts; on the admin side, struggling with the government (PPP and IDAL) and, most problematic, Employee Retention (SBA) \$1K/employee (got \$10K); biggest problem = getting PPP (\$62,500 waiting in Key Bank); KD: if the money is not forgiven, there'll be a huge backlash; Dan: SBA conference call yesterday very depressing vis a vis the bureaucracy (making loans repayable @ 1% over 24 months) make it super risky/worst thing is businesses who jumped in early are caught between the PPP and not:

Kim: why would employers pay PPP rather than using unemployment? KD: Depends on the business – some making money, such as contractors, but restaurants not because they're closed; risk falls on the employer with the auditing/loan payback rules/unemployment benefits; PPP goal was to maintain critical employees not necessarily to keep small businesses like restaurants going; SBA regs (36 as of now)

Economic Development Committee
Minutes of April 29, 2020 Meeting
Page Two

changing/multiplying every two days); County been helpful in following the situation (Ron Hicks) and banks are stymied by the red tape; everybody's hung out to dry.

Ed: what's your timeline? This is a longterm situation/restaurants not "normal" for long time; PPP used to pay you? Dan: no, doesn't work plus it disqualifies us from the ERC; KD: set up for other businesses; Dan: keeping up with the changes takes away time from business;

Red Hook Responds: 408 volunteers/operators on duty from 9 to 5, awesome lead team to take care of problems/coverage; falls in place each day; pharmacy and neighborly chat = slow; grocery pickup slowed because Hannaford, for example, won't receive checks; meal delivery = busiest and continues to expand/reserved meal list at 55%; 3-day and 4-day orders/reduces phone calls and fulfills "dire" needs (especially elderly); restaurants pitching in (8 signed up to participate for this one-time service) [Kim/Chamber coordinating re: these are the steps necessary; want to bring more in but it depends on further funding; been very helpful to RHR by reducing daily meal prep/delivery responsibility] RHR cost = \$4/meal so if restaurants want to participate at that level, good; some doing good takeout business (Charlie O's/Village Pizza); Vanessa: CanCun reopening for takeout.

Dan: figuring out how to grow meals, especially for the aging (working with the Office for the Aging; people 60+); fundraising = good (\$20K in hand); also awarded \$8K County grant (\$2K a month); Local foods: national and regional supply chains breaking down, so working with farmers (James Davison, Flatiron Solutions) to develop a local supply system for local farms to alert what is for sharing, what is for sale; farm at Bard = very involved (Lurie Husted/team) and Glynwood (Cold Spring); USDA \$3B Farms to Families food bank (RHR joining) – Glynwood be the contact between Fed gov't and us; Migliorelli and Hearty Roots participating; how many people feeding/people working/space available for processing: reimbursement for the food/packaging/delivery to RHR; future = Food Marketplace; farmers would get paid for the efforts; most important: have to be willing to follow where you will and lead when you can;

RHR reserves? Keep excess in storage in my TastBudd's trailer for now, then back to Migliorelli's; stocked up on takeout containers (washable/2000) can be sanitized and reused but more work for us; also, some good for the environment, some not; can't use Styrofoam; going to get harder and will need much more help (the littlest of the people will

Economic Development Committee
Minutes of April 29, 2020 Meeting
Page Three

suffer most – homeless and hungry!) Also, lots of undocumented residents are hiding away so need to have an anonymous pickup system; Ed: could use the village parking lot/pickup at kiosk; could substitute it for the Elks Lodge pickup; start small, enlarge as demand grows (via word-of-mouth);

Working on a RHR mini-documentary on the crisis with the RHCS film director; need a marketing company to help pitch (5-10 minutes) nationally to help model and add a positive story to the news; Seth Kramer/Will Tatum/others would help;

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 6, 2020 via RingCentral.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary