

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Maarty Reilingh, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), Vanessa Shafer, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Robert McKeon (Red Hook Town Supervisor), 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 8:37 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Minutes of the Meeting of June 17, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- **Discussion** – KD: Phase 3 open; restaurants at 50% capacity = big milestone; progressing normally (within the guidelines)
Ed: Friday night fire companies dispatched to J&J's = smoky rags set alarms off but couldn't find the origin of the smoke; no one hurt; very difficult situation/no structural damage but takes time to clean up the smell, smoke damage; remind restaurateurs about used rags; Thursday night Village Board signed "donation agreement" with Red Hook Seniors treatment plant on 10 acres; closing scheduled in 60 days; mural confab: FBook led to 1st session with DCty Human Rights director – putting conference together with the petitioners to bring all interested parties to a community conversation (attended by Chris Klose for Historic Red Hook, Myra Armstead from Bard, Village, County Historian, Todd Baright, artists of the mural); story covered by the local media, including front page of the Daily Freeman, Poughkeepsie Journal, Spectrum News; summary = discussion of racism, rights of artists, public art and who controls its display, especially when it's on a private building; no public funds ever supported the mural; how long should a mural last? especially when buildings need to be maintained, refreshed; wider discussion is a good thing; Next step is to bring the parties together.

McKeon: Town considering the issue, too, and will work with any/all groups who are working on racism, bullying, community policing, public art, et al;

Ed: drafting a statement of positive moving forward (words have consequences re: issue of potential violence on/from both sides); we're in the middle of a worldwide recognition of racism and the need for a continuing, moderated community conversation;

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- **Red Hook Responds** – Dan: two more grants in, \$4K plus in food donated and sent along to Pine Plains' food bank; Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck involved, too, with RHR/food exchange; core volunteers still strong; mtg tonight to streamline work hours/delivery system/volunteers required; reduce shift hours while maintaining service; no one left hungry, however; question: how to scale back/make it work for the volunteers without endangering system; meal deliveries down to 40/day but average number of meals going out has not dropped; meal funding good well into the fall; wary of the cessation of unemployment checks and how it may spike demand for meals; if so, RHR set up to respond; Mutual Aid = calling for a June 30 regionwide mtg to discuss future needs, especially homelessness spiking in the fall (seeing that occur now); Mutual Aid has no funding, however;

TBudd's working with Tivoli Artists Coop, which produced two cardboard "photo boards" of Statue of Liberty and another, which kids love; Phase 3 opening June 23rd saw 8 people dine inside; tables are spread out and others blocked off; Father's Day = busiest in three months @ 70% of normal sales; bringing back employees gradually; Employer Retention Tax Credit to be filed for the Second Quarter (June 30 reapplication deadline) makes sense now because we have 24 weeks to use 60% of it for wages; the amount of time to comply with the rules is overwhelming because of the layers required for collecting data which change in mid-stride(!); "nervous news every day."

Virtual Hardscrabble – No update;

ITF/STR – ITF may meet via social distancing/zoom in the next couple of weeks; interested in what's happening in the real estate market, when demand is down and prices are up; ITF diversity? For it but ITF has designated representation (not all, however) and it could be changed and the meeting schedule redone; McKeon: don't put stock in where the member is from but the people who participate;

Ed: Jacob update us re: Bard – current plan is to reopen according to the NYS Phase guidelines; carefully monitoring on-campus and remote staffing via staggered/rotational scheduling; fall = in-person classes remains the plan; how many people will come back to campus undecided at this time; keeping options open vis a vis how many coming back, length of semester (end at Thanksgiving, for example); if there is a different semester length it's critical to notify Red Hook businesses because they will need to adjust accordingly; Vassar is doing the same vis a vis

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Thanksgiving, especially out-of-state and international students; McKeon = critical to make sure masks are available and used!

Tobacco Lane Memo – CK to draft letter to Barights and Mike Metway re: opening for public seating; KD to review/revise/send; Vanessa to do the Minutes and Maarty to do the Agenda, send it out with the Ring Central link.

Friday Night Music – Bands to perform on the Barights' Ready to Eat space; do it for July 3 (Rick and Mr. Roper ready)

Next Meetings: 8:30 a.m., Wednesdays, July 1 and July 8, 2020 via RingCentral.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary