

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Chris Klose (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli, Maarty Reilingh, Emily Sachar, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor, Village of Red Hook), George Jahn

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 03-24-2021.

Old Business:

Announcements –

Sewer – EB: Rep. Delgado meeting and one with the EFC; upshot: EFC pathway to meet the new, \$8 million needed at 0% rate, with \$900,000+ grant, payable over 30 years to meet the overall project cost; Village to pass a new bond issue, including notice to benefit holders re: the increased costs; need to give the approved bond process resolution to the EFC, with completion 75 days later; American Rescue Plan gives Village \$218,000 over two years, perhaps useable to lower the bond costs; EFC will “right size” the bond amount, which obviates the need to go to the commercial bond market, which is now at 3+% interest; Construction bids must be okayed within 45 days, both contractors to extend their bids until first week of May.

EB: moving to Boston... Next dream: urban mass transit to culture overdose spots, plus kids and grandkids to visit. Village board to set special election to succeed him; CK: imperative for Historic Red Hook to conduct an oral history interview. EDC Resolution of Appreciation forthcoming to acknowledge EB's contributions over his 10-year tenure in office.

Red Hook Responds – DB: Easter dinner offer going well, working with other organizations (Girl Scouts, Better World Club at the RH Middle School, others helping); community event highlighted by thumbnails by the volunteers (04-15 at 7:15 p.m.); American Recovery Act may help small businesses get relief funding; garden project sponsorship (22 gardens) at \$40/per garden, subscribed quickly to secure necessary funding; RHR being awarded certificate of appreciation/cooperation by Elks Lodge; RHR non-profit status in the works transitioning from Village of Red Hook insurance to its own insurance policy; there is a strong volunteer base with new people aboard;

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EDC Business Survey – ES: 36 responded out of 135 (18.4% rate), identifying 30% as AirBnB-visitors, 50% unknown; plan to contact as many retailers not heard from as feasible; details at next week’s meeting.

Welcome Wagon Concept – KD: Nancy Lee (Petals&Moss) and KMcG working on the project, with DB’s counsel.

EDC/ITF Coordination – KD to follow up, report at next week’s meeting.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

Adjournment: Chair Dousharm adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary