

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2013
7:30 A.M.**

The meeting convened at 7:30 a.m., at the Beaver Meadow Golf Club, 1 Beaver Meadow Road, Concord, NH. Refreshments were provided courtesy of the City Councilors Coen, McClure, Bennett, Nyhan, and St. Hilaire.

PRESENT: Councilor Allen Bennett, Tim Bernier, Christopher Carley, Councilor Mark Coen, Peter Cook, Larry Gloekler, Stephen Heavener, Brad Hosmer, John Hoyt, Councilor Jan McClure, Bill Norton, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Connie Rosemont, Councilor Dan St. Hilaire, and Mayor Jim Bouley

ABSENT: Byron Champlin, Walter Chapin, and Claudia Walker

STAFF: Carlos P. Baía, Deputy City Manager – Development
Matt Walsh, Assistant for Special Projects
Donna Muir, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Carley thanked the Councilors for providing the refreshments. Councilor Coen stated that he and the other Councilors were reflecting and realized the number of years people have served on the Economic Development Advisory Council and the various issues with which EDAC has wrestled. He said that the City Council appreciates and thanks the members of EDAC for doing this.

1. Minutes of the March 8, EDAC meeting

Mr. Carley asked that the minutes be reviewed for approval at this time. Councilor McClure asked that her statement regarding market-rate housing be changed as follows:

“Ms. McClure explained that she was concerned with the imbalance between workforce housing and market rate housing in the downtown area, ***specifically that there is not enough market rate housing.***”

Councilor St. Hilaire moved to approve the minutes as revised and Councilor McClure seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Leisure Economy

Mr. Carley introduced David Gill, the City’s Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Gill welcomed EDAC to Beaver Meadow Golf Course, the oldest course in the state. He stated that Councilor Coen asked him to provide information to EDAC regarding the impact of leisure services on the economics of a community. Mr. Gill explained that, according to a recent survey, leisure services including parks and recreation, was voted as the number three reason for families moving into a community, ranking higher than police and fire services.

Mr. Gill provided an overview of recent and upcoming building projects within the City which are considered leisure services, including Evolution Rock & Fitness, Boys & Girls Club, the White Park multipurpose building, a multi-generational community center, the YMCA, and the Penacook Community Center. Mr. Gill outlined

how the City's parks, swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, special outdoor events, golf course, etc., bring economic value to the City and are good marketing points for attracting businesses. He also reviewed a list of leisure service providers, including community centers, health clubs, sports leagues, as well as high school and college sports.

EDAC discussed the need to measure the impact of leisure services going forward and how to use this information to market the City. The Council discussed enterprise funds, recreation impact fees, and private donations for funding leisure services.

3. Capital Regional Development Council Presentation

Mr. Heavener, Executive Director of CRDC, provided a short history of the CRDC and explained that CRDC is a non-profit providing economic development and lending services to businesses and local governments throughout New Hampshire. Mr. Heavener stated that CRDC is a creative enhancement lender that assists in growing small businesses and is usually requested by the banks to fill in gaps in funding for these small businesses.

Mr. Heavener provided an overview of the programs that CRDC uses to stimulate private sector job creation and local property tax base enhancement. These programs include Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 lending, SBA Intermediary Lending Pilot Program, Direct Term Loans, BDC Capital Collaboration, Economic Development Consulting, New Market Tax Credits, and Brownfield Clean-Up Loans and Grants and Subgrants.

EDAC discussed some of the development projects that have been assisted through CRDC's programs and talked about how EDAC helps CRDC.

4. Other Business

Mr. Baía followed up on old business from last meeting. He noted that he met with the president of Fairpoint Communications regarding how to enhance the internet service for the downtown. The president stated that his team would investigate the feasibility of such an enhancement. The president also inquired as to possibly off-setting some of the cost for that enhancement as a CDFA tax credit sponsorship.

5. Adjournment

The Chair thanked Mr. Gill and Mr. Heavener for their presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. Mr. Carley offered to host the May 3rd meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Donna Muir*