

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by EDC Chairman Kevin Emerick.

ROLL CALL: EDC MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Bafaro; Tim Budelman; Jill Craig; Kevin Emerick; Steve Krautscheid; Rick Lafave; Rob Langford; Jim Langstraat; Juanita Lint; Alfredo Moreno; Mark Nakajima; Guy Storms; Tom Raabe; Javier Urenda

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED): Jonathan Yawson; Jennifer Prickett;

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (UNEXCUSED): None

OTHERS PRESENT: Court Carrier; Dick Stinson

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilor Timothy Rippe

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff King, Economic Development Manager; Shannon Reynolds, Admin Assistant

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

None

3. APPROVAL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES:

A quorum was met. Tim Budelman moved a motion to approve the December and January EDC meeting minutes. Tom Raabe seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

None

5. BUSINESS:

A. Chamber of Commerce Update, Juanita Lint:

Juanita provided a Chamber of Commerce update to the EDC. An extension to the restaurant grant fund deadline was given through February 15th. Juanita has filled any vacant spots with business owners who were eligible in Cornelius or Forest Grove. The Chamber will be responding to the Tourism RFP and a CEP grant coming soon. Funds may be used for new lighting in downtown streets of Forest Grove. The Chamber is working on the upcoming "Farm to Table" project dinner in July and will partner with Adelante Mujeres.

B. City Council Update, Councilor Rippe:

Councilor Rippe provided a City Council update to the EDC. The annual Town Meeting was held last Saturday. Decisions are still being made regarding the hiring of a new Fire Chief while the Interim Chief fills this position for a six month contract period. The resolution to approve a proposed reimbursement district was tabled to allow for further discussion and re-evaluation between parties. A proposal was made from the Public Arts Commission for a rotating sculptural art gallery throughout the downtown corridor of Forest Grove. Six display locations will be considered. Art work will be placed this

upcoming summer. Displays will stay for a period of two years each. The City Council Annual retreat to set goals and objectives will be held virtually on Saturday February 20th.

C. Chair and Vice Chair Election

Chair and Vice Chair for the EDC are up for re-election. Tom Raabe moved to keep Kevin Emerick as Chair and Javier Urenda as Vice Chair of the EDC. Tim Budelman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Columbia-Pacific Economic Dev.District Introduction; Ayreann, Columbo, Exec. Director

Ayreann was unable to make it to the EDC meeting. Jeff updated that there is a vacancy on the board for the Columbia Pacific EDD. Juanita Lint is a possible candidate. Should this require City Council approval, Councilor Rippe will place the item on the next council agenda.

Tom Raabe moved a motion for the EDC to affirm consideration of Jaunita Lint for the Columbia Pacific Board position. Tim Budelman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Pandemic Recovery-Marketing and Messaging; Jeff King

Jeff King updated the EDC with the current pandemic status. We are still in the relief phase and have a ways to go before we move to a transition to a more consistent recovery. Future rent relief for commercial landlords is expected to be available in March through state funding. There may also be a federal bill passed that will give relief specifically for restaurant owners. Jeff mentioned we still maintain zero Industrial vacancies within Forest Grove and our commercial vacancy remain very low. Several new Forest Grove business lead possibilities; Urgent care, Dairy Queen, Bull Run Cider tasting room, 195-unit apartments coming next to Wauna Credit Union.

Members discussed various ways to promote small businesses during this relief time in the community, especially restaurants. A News Times ad to promote online ordering was discussed. Continued profiling of various restaurants will continue to help bring in local business. Tom Raabe added that there is a large portion of the federal PPP funds available for any businesses still in need. Lack of vaccine information and distribution has been frustrating. Court Carrier mentioned the hospitality industry is only at 54% in comparison to last year at this time. The brand new Forest Grove website is now live. Continued advertising for all local activities will be promoted through the website. The next Tourism Committee meeting will be used to discuss how to best allocate funds for marketing the City. Jill Craig mentioned the single tents have been better received than the larger community tents. Court mentioned advertising a "Takeout Thursday" to encourage people to commit to eating out at least once a week. Continued member discussion on pandemic issues throughout Forest Grove and surrounding areas.

6. STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

None

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Kevin Emerick, announced that the next meeting of the EDC will be on Thursday, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. (virtual).

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Kevin Emerick adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by:

Shannon Reynolds
Administrative Specialist
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove EDC:

Date: March 4, 2021

