FOREST GROVE OREGON

A place where families and businesses thrive.

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Thursday, April 1, 2021
CITY OF FOREST GROVE - ONLINE

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by EDC Chairman Kevin Emerick.

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

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED): Tim Budelman; Jill Craig; Jennifer Prickett; Guy Storms; Jonathan Yawson

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (UNEXCUSED): None

OTHERS PRESENT: Ayreann Columbo; Sylke Neal Finnegan; Gina Hunington; Sarah Teters-Johnson

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. Brad Bafaro moved a motion to approve the March EDC meeting minutes. Steve Krautscheid 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. The chamber dinner and auction will be held on April 10th with over 40 items to auction. The CEP Grant has been submitted for the "Farm to Table" dinner. Hiring of an event planner will happen early next week for this community event. Profits will be used for a donation to Salud, an organization that helps to provide healthcare to migrant workers in the winery industry.

B. City Council Update, Councilor Rippe:

Councilor Rippe provided a City Council update to the EDC. The budget committee will begin meeting in April.

C. Columbia Pacific EDD, Ayreann Colombo, Exec Director:

Jeff introduced Ayreann Colombo; Executive director of the Columbia Pacific Economic Development District. The board consists of 24 members representing each of the four counties. Many resources are provided such as small business grants as well being a

conduit to help funnel federal funds. They also offer a loan program for small businesses. Ayreann provided a brief overview of what Col-Pac encompasses. She further explained there is an open position on the board for Forest Grove as an "Alternate" board member. Jaunita Lint of the Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce will fill the private sector position as well.

D. Re-introducing Junior Achievement, Gina Hunington, JA Staff:
Gina Hunington and Jennifer Aritola both directors at Junior Achievement provided a J.A. presentation to the EDC. J.A. is a world-wide non-profit organization that teaches students personal finance, work force readiness, and entrepreneurship. J.A. provides youth with the unique and transformative experiences that are proven to empower them to succeed in tomorrow's economy. Funding for J.A. comes from corporations, foundations, government, and personal giving. Classes are led by volunteers at schools across Forest Grove and throughout Oregon. Various EDC members testified to the success of this program and were encouraged to continue to volunteer or donate. Brad Bafaro made the suggestion that this presentation be given to the school board as a reminder of the importance of J.A.

E. $1.9T American Rescue Act, Business Needs discussion, Jeff King:
Jeff spoke on some of the various federal grant monies that may be coming in the near future. Discussion was held on various ways the funds could be distributed to the local small business community. Jeff will continue to meet with other Economic Community Development leaders throughout the county to explore ideas as well.

Sylke Neal-Finnegan from the Washington County Visitors Center provided an update to the EDC in regards to Covid-19 impacts on businesses in Washington County. Information for grants available to tourism related businesses can be found on their website. Mention was made that while businesses have been negatively affected during the pandemic, numbers are better this year than they were last year at this time. EDC members discussed incentives to get people back out to more restaurants and other hospitality/tourism related businesses. Councilor Rippe mentioned the importance of documenting any ideas the EDC may come up with so that Council can take those into consideration. Jaunita Lint mentioned she would be willing to meet with various members outside of this EDC meeting to come up with ideas that could then be presented to the group as a whole.

F. Special Equity Meeting – Date/Forum Design/Invites, Kevin/Jeff:
Kevin Emerick mentioned October as a good time to schedule for the Special Equity Meeting. The format was decided to have both current and emerging businesses be invited. Questions should be framed around the existing study that Adelante Mujeres conducted. Juanita mentioned the need to speak to MIG Consulting as they were the

group hired to plan the "Festival Streets" project and they have addressed many of the questions and concerns this forum would benefit from.

6. **STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:**
   None

7. **ANNOUNCMENT OF NEXT MEETING:**
   Chairman Kevin Emerick, announced that the next meeting of the EDC will be on Thursday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m. (virtual).

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**
   Kevin Emerick adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon Reynolds
Administrative Specialist
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove EDC:

Date: 5/6/21