FOREST GROVE OREGON

A place where families and businesses thrive.

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Thursday, May 6, 2021
CITY OF FOREST GROVE - ONLINE

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by EDC Chairman Kevin Emerick.

ROLL CALL: EDC MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Budelman; Jill Craig; Kevin Emerick; Steve Krautscheid; Rick Lafave; Jim Langstraat; Jaunita Lint; Mark Nakajima; Tom Raabe; Guy Storms; Javier Urenda

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED): Brad Bafaro; Rob Langford; Alfredo Moreno; Jonathan Yawson

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (UNEXCUSED): Jennifer Prickett

OTHERS PRESENT: Derek Robbins;

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilor Timothy Rippe

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff King, Economic Development Manager

2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

None

3. **APPROVAL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES:**

A quorum was met. Tom Raabe 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:**

Tourism week has started and banners will be hung up to advertise the new Forest Grove Tourism branding as well as the new website. Farm to Table planning is in process.

B. **City Council Update, Councilor Rippe:**

Councilor Rippe provided a City Council update to the EDC. Council has started the budget process for the fiscal year of 21-22. Typically the budget is approved late June. The local auction levy expires in 2023. Council will begin the process of drafting the new levy so it is ready for 2022 ballot vote. Pandemic recovery has been going well with a few exceptions; healthcare services, hospitality, and some government agency positions. Housing issues with mortgage and rent payments is a concern within Washington County. The current Washington County unemployment rate is down to 5.2%. We are not quite back to pre Covid-19 unemployment rates.

C. Council Creek Trail-Derek Robbins, FG Engineering Dept:
Derek Robbins from Forest Grove Engineering Department provided an update to the EDC on the projected plans for the Council Creek Trail. Cornelius proposed the original trail idea and it was then adopted by the Metro Regional Trail Plan several years ago. Grants were applied for and awarded and Forest Grove was adopted as one of the partners for the Master Plan back in 2015. An RFP will likely be submitted in June 2021. Estimated corridor plan/delivery implementation is winter of 2023.

D. Oak Street Preferred Option and Discussion, Jeff King:
Jeff gave a brief update on the current Oak Street Plans. Feedback from the EDC would be appreciated as this will be a significant amount of Industrial land.

E. American Rescue Act-business needs discussion PT II – Jeff King:
We still have not received guidance from the government yet on how the funds can be used. Restaurants have started to apply for the federal funds that have become available under the Restaurant Relief Fund. Jeff mentioned that businesses have communicated the need for regulations to change to allow for more business rather than handing out more funds. Resource help is still needed from BRC. Video of resource information of what is available would be great. Digital Mall could be a possibility according to Jaunita Lint. Jill mentioned the SBA Loan assistance program was amazing. Very well done. Rick LaFave mentioned a possible way to give an incentive to employees who have continued to work for restaurants throughout the pandemic.

F. Misc Updates-Junior Achievement, Equity Outreach Meeting
JA applied for grant funding. Jeff inquired of the EDC on doing a match funding program.

Jeff mentioned using the June or July EDC meeting to come up with ideas for the Equity Outreach Meeting.

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, June 3rd 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: 7/8/21