

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**Minutes of April 18th, 2019
Held In Conference Room 306**

Present were Chairman Jonathan Killian, Frederick Radway, Daniel Corria, Michelle Martins Botelho, Dominic Leonardo, and James Moran (staff). This meeting was conducted as a joint meeting between the East Providence Waterfront District Commission and the Economic Development Commission. The Waterfront Commission conducted this meeting under Agenda Item 1 for their meeting

The meeting was called to order in a joint session program by Waterfront District Commission Chairman William Fazioli in concurrence with Economic Development Chairman Jonathan Killian at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

Agenda Item 1. Joint Discussion: Introductory discussion with the Waterfront District Commission

Waterfront Commission Chairman William Fazioli welcomed members of the Economic Development Commission and asked that members of both Commissions introduce themselves to the combined group. Chairman Fazioli provided an overview of the Commission's current review activities, the status of several projects that have been permitted, or are in the permitting review process currently, and those projects that will be coming to the Commission for review in the future. The project review process was discussed. Chairman Killian asked about the 45 day review process. Waterfront Commission Executive Director Pamela Sherrill provided an overview of the review process and how projects move through from process from beginning to end.

Chairman Jonathan Killian along with Economic Planner Jim Moran described the work that the Economic Development Commission has been involved with including an overview of the loan programs administered through the Economic Development Commission and efforts associated with the establishment of the City's new website www.eastprovidencebusiness.com. There was discussion regarding Commission member Dominic Leonardo's promotional video for Pods Swimming, a company that received a commercial loan through the City. Acting Planning Director Diane Feather indicated that the Department has done a good job of promoting economic development in the City despite having limited funds to do so including the establishment of the City's economic development website and advertising through the New England Real Estate Journal.

Chairman Fazioli said that he believed that The Waterfront Commission and Economic Development Commission could coordinate with each other in the future especially as it relates to commercial projects happening in the Waterfront District and receiving advisory comments from the Economic Development Commission. Jonathan Killian thanked the Waterfront Commission for the opportunity to convene the joint discussion session between the two and looked forward to continued collaborative efforts.

The Economic Development Commission adjourned from the joint meeting with the Waterfront Commission and reconvened their meeting in the 3rd floor lounge to discuss items 2 through 4 of the Agenda items.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of March 7, 2019 Minutes;

On a Motion by Mr. Radway and Seconded by Ms. Martins Botelho, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the March 7, 2019 Minutes, as submitted.

Agenda Item 3. Status update on the Oliver Day School loan application;

Mr. Moran stated that Eva Furtado had contacted him via email to convey that the lease agreement for 42 Hemingway Drive had fallen through and that she would need to hold off on proceeding with the City's commercial loan until she could secure another building. Mr. Moran said that he informed Ms. Furtado that the loan was approved by the Commission at its March 7th meeting, and that the loan approval is valid for 90 days from that date (June 4th). After that date, the Commission would need to review a new application. As of the date of the meeting Mr. Moran indicated that he had received no additional information from the applicant.

Agenda Item 4. Update on key infrastructure and activities relating to the promotion of economic development in East Providence

The Commission discussed the recent announcement from Senator Jack Reed's office regarding funding to replace the Henderson Bridge that crosses the Seekonk River between Providence and East Providence. Mr. Moran said that the State wanted to move quickly on the design and construction of the bridge and that municipal officials from East Providence and Providence have been meeting with RIDOT officials to discuss the design. To date, it appears that the design will be for a double roundabout configuration on the East Providence side. Mr. Moran said that more discussion and updates on the project can be discussed at the May meeting as the design at that point will be further along. Members of the Commission agreed that the new bridge and the land that will become available as a result of the changes could have a major impact on economic development along this section of the waterfront.

There was no other business discussed.

Adjourn: The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm

Signed: *James Moran*
Recording Secretary