



CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of January 19, 2023

Held in the Planning Department Conference Room, City Hall

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Botelho at 6:07 PM. Those identified as present were Chairwoman Botelho, Mr. Moran, Mr. Corria, Mr. McManus, Mr. Leonardo and Ms. McNamara.

II. Old Business:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 8th, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Corria seconded by Mr. McManus, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 8th, 2022.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 20th, 2022

On a motion by Mr. McManus seconded by Mr. Corria, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 20th, 2022.

III. New Business:

A. Vote on Storefront Improvement Grant Application by Jeff's Pizza

On a motion by Mr. McManus and seconded by Mr. Corria, the Commission unanimously voted to approve Jeff's Pizza's application for a storefront improvement grant to purchase a blade sign which will improve the businesses' visibility.

B. Approval of 2023 Meeting Calendar

On a motion by Mr. Leonardo and seconded by Mr. McManus, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the 2023 Meeting Calendar. The Commission also requested to revisit the meeting times at the October 2023 meeting to accommodate everyone's schedule, noting multiple City boards and commissions also meet on Thursdays.

C. Discussion of Repayment Plans for Kjane & Co. LLC and Z&S Express, LLC

The Commission discussed the proposed repayment plans and were satisfied with proceeding with the plans as presented. The Commission also instructed Planning Department Staff to work with

the City's Legal Department to proceed with next steps to recoup the unpaid balance of Fella's Fitness.

D. Discussion of EDC Powers and Duties Review and Tourism Assessment Workshop
The Commission discussed one of the recommendations from the Tourism Assessment workshop which was to create a brochure highlighting the "best of" East Providence Businesses. Laura McNamara informed the Commission the City is working with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council to form a working group to work on this idea.

The Commission discussed improving the search results of restaurants, businesses, and other attractions in East Providence on platforms such as Google and TripAdvisor. Some businesses show in search results as being located in Providence, Riverside, or Rumford, and do not populate when searching by "East Providence". Ms. McNamara noted this is something the Tourism Council can also work to fix.

The commission discussed scheduling a joint meeting with the Planning Board and Waterfront Commission following the adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. Leonardo provided a staff report to the Commission describing the zoning Amendments adopted by the City Council in December of 2022 and various development projects throughout the City.

V. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Leonardo and Seconded by Mr. Corria the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Moran

Recording Secretary