

RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION
MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL
PUBLIC SESSION

July 19, 2023

The Rhode Island Economic Development Planning Council (“EDPC”) met on July 19, 2023 at the Department of Administration (1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908) pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq./Daniela Fairchild (Chair); Jude Amoako; Meredith Brady; Liz Catucci; Dave Chenevert; Channavy Chhay; Andrew Cortes; Pam Cotter; Roshni Darnal; Lori Giuttari; Philip Gould; Russ Griffiths; Carol Malysz; Oscar Mejias; and Chelsea Siefert.

Not attending were: Mario Bueno; Jane Cole; Pamela Cotter; Rilwan Feyisitan, Jr.; Shannon Gilkey; Roberta Groch; Bernadette MacArthur; Jason Martesian; Elizabeth Lynn; Lisa Ranglin; Krystafer Redden; Michael Sabitoni; Loren Spears; and Kira Wills.

Also in attendance were Patrick Duffy and Adam Isaacs-Falbel of RI Commerce as well as Rachel Selsky and Lindsay Johnson of Camoin Associates.

Members of the public included Alan Krinsky and Christian Cowan.

The meeting was called to order at 8:54am.

Secretary Tanner gave opening remarks, thanking the Council and the Commerce and Camoin teams for their work so far and saying that the input that has been given so far by the Council can be seen reflected in the draft strategies presented at this meeting. She said that she had been impressed so far by the depth and content of the feedback that has been presented to this point in the process.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the prior meeting of the Economic Development Planning Council on June 21, 2023, were unanimously approved with an amendment proposed by Lori Giuttari to clarify which members were and were not in attendance.

Secretary Tanner turned it over to Daniela Fairchild to describe where in the economic development planning process the work presently is. She explained that this is not a step-by-step linear process, but a long and complex one with many overlapping component parts. Fairchild continued that, ultimately, this process will get clearer and the team hopes that it becomes a document that everyone on the Council can feel a part of and be satisfied with. Last meeting focused on high-level strategy, now we are moving toward tactics. She asked the Council to keep supporting the process to get more specific. She explained that the next step after refining the

tactics today is building out a true action plan to align who is leading, what is being done, how we're measuring, and when it is going to happen. The goal is to have a public facing dashboard that people can look at to ensure transparency and accountability. Additionally, the state will report to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and to the Council on how we are doing so far. The ultimate final document will include a narrative, strategy, action plan, and data. The goal is to have a public document for feedback by mid-August. She said she recognized that this is an aggressive timeline but still slower than originally intended, explaining that the team received an extension from EDA to the timeline to allow for more outreach and engagement. The final report is now due at the end of October.

Fairchild then described the timeline for Council meetings moving forward: The next meeting of the Council will be in August, and will be run more as a public open office hours. Commenting will be accessible online, but this allows for an alternative option for people who want further discussion or who may not be able to access an online platform. She asked if the committee is willing to add an additional meeting from the initial schedule in October to see the final draft of the plan and approve the plan. In the interim, the team is hoping to speak one on one with Council members to incorporate any additional points of feedback. She asked the Council if they agreed with these proposed next steps.

Carol Malysz agreed that this timeline makes sense. Ms. Fairchild then turned the meeting over to Rachel Selsky of Camoin Associates to explain the format of today's meeting.

Ms. Selsky said that the Council had a really good conversation last month about refining objectives, which has helped the team to better define goals and develop tactics. The revised goals, objectives, and tactics were shared in a document with the Council last week. Today, the Council will be digging into the tactic level as the team has already gotten good feedback on the broader goals and framework. The document includes 12 anchor items and three lighthouse items. The anchors were developed based on feedback we received last month and are the really important objectives that will help to move the needle and are critical to addressing challenges in Rhode Island. Anchors have more tactics underneath them compared to other objectives because we want to hone in on those – Commerce and members of the Council will have a role in the implementation and we will track these as metrics for the EDA. Lighthouses are ideas that the Camoin team developed that focus on unique opportunities or niches for the state to create economic opportunity. These lighthouses tend to be more innovative, taking big steps and reaches for the state. Today, the Council is focusing on the anchor and lighthouse objectives, but the team will also be developing and building out more tactics in the other objective areas. Ms. Selsky turned the meeting over to Lindsay Johnson of Camoin Associates to talk about the workshop activity for today.

Ms. Johnson explained that the Council will be doing a slight variation of the workshop that they did last month. Each Council member should first go to the table of the bucket of objectives (Strong Communities, Sustainable Growth, Increased Prosperity) where they feel they have the most expertise and can play the biggest role in implementation. After 30 minutes providing feedback on the tactics, implementation partners, and metrics at that station, Council members

will rotate to the other stations before reporting out to the group and the end of the meeting. She said that feedback will be incorporated into the final document to be presented in August.

The Council then proceeded with the workshop as described.

Following the workshop section of the agenda, Fairchild asked for Council members to go around and say their one top priority or focus area that should be included to move the needle:

- Andrew Cortes: integrating registered apprenticeships as a proven strategy to every aspect of workforce development.
- Carol Malysz: establishing a regular public communication strategy on the goals and strategies for the state and on the work that is being done and will be done. Many people don't know about the efforts that are happening in the state.
- Jude Amoako: implementing career development at earlier ages, teaming up with big employers (e.g., Electric Boat, wind organizations, etc.) to reach kids and let them know the skills they can learn and the job opportunities they have in Rhode Island.
- Russ Griffiths: seconded Jude's point as a way to make sure people stay in the state after high school or after they have left the educational system.
- Chelsea Siefert: developing necessary port infrastructure and getting buy-in from the municipalities with regard to changing planning and zoning – they need to be part of the picture to get things done.
- Meredith Brady: look at existing plans so that we are not just developing plans without implementing them. Additionally, need planners to do the planning and that will require education and workforce development, especially focused on resilience.
- Oscar Mejias: all of us should be implementation partners and help to execute the plan. Council members should take action, not let the state take all the responsibility, identify other actors to help get involved, and act as leaders and evaluators.
- Lori Giuttari: communication through technology.
- Dave Chenevert: education models are changing, and there must be a dual approach with college and career training, including having leaders buy into improvement of CTE earlier in education (as early as middle school). This objective needs further funding. Finally, connecting CTE and apprenticeships.
- Channavy Chhay: build an ESOP [Employee Stock Ownership Plan] program to help move our community to the middle class and not let jobs move out of state or die out.
- Roshni Darnal: need strong implementation partners in areas that can be executable. We need very clear and concrete outcomes and plans with regular report backs on progress including timeline within goals.
- Alan Krinsky: connect prosperity and communities buckets through something like the Rhode Island Foundation's *Make It Happen* report recommendation to create neighborhood trusts, keeping communities involved in decision making.
 - Roshni Darnal pointed to the Central Providence HEZ (led by ONE Neighborhood Builders) as an example of an organization to replicate that convenes community in the neighborhood and talks to people.

- Christian Cowan: lean into the assets of our geography and our ocean-based economy. Connect communities to the companies that are investing in these assets.

Lindsay Johnson gave a wrap-up of next steps. The team will be taking feedback from today to make edits to the proposed tactics. Council members can submit any additional feedback during public comment period as well as bring along other organizations and people who should have the opportunity to give feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18am.

RHODE ISLAND
Executive Office of Commerce

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Economic Development Planning Council will be held on July 19, 2023 beginning at 8:45 a.m. at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, 1 Capitol Hill, Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908. The meeting will be held for the following purposes:

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
3. Recap of Work to Date
4. Discussion of Proposed Strategic Objectives and Tactics (CEDS “Anchors”)
5. Preview of Upcoming Work and Milestones
6. Adjourn

This location is accessible to the handicapped. Those requiring interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation at (401) 278-9100 forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. Also, for the hearing impaired, assisted listening devices are available onsite, without notice, at this location.

This notice shall be posted at the Office of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, the Executive Office of Commerce, the State House, and by electronic filing with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Posted on July 14, 2023

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