Rochester Economic Development Commission

Minutes – March 23, 2021

Rochester City Hall Annex – Online Teams Meeting

33 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

**Members Present Remotely:** Jonathan Shapleigh, Paul Giuliano, Whitney Belton, Janet Davis, Marsha Miller, Mark Hourihane, Kris Ebbeson, Ron Poulin, Kristen Bournival

**Members Absent Remotely:**

**Others Present:** Mike Scala, Jenn Marsh, Mayor Caroline McCarley

1. B and C: Chairman Shapleigh read the preamble and called the meeting to order at 8:02am.
2. Roll Call attendance was taken.

Jonathan introduced our newest member Ron Poulin

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Roll call attendance was taken as part D of the preamble.
2. Marsha made a motion to approve the February minutes. Mark seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, all in favor.
3. Jonathan is working on putting together a presentation for City Council regarding the revolving loan fund (RLF). Mike with work with staff regarding funding ideas. The time frame for rolling out the RLF may be in the next fiscal year. It was noted that the ED Fund still receives $100,000 a year from the Waste Management host fees.
4. Mike gave an update and noted that City Council held a first reading and Planning Board voted to recommend and show support of the rezoning of 13 Sawyer Avenue to downtown commercial. The next step is April 6th for a second reading and vote to adopt at City Council.

GRDD housing update: Mike has presented to the finance committee regarding the change on the financial plan. This would allow infrastructure upgrades to residential uses in the TIF. The first reading and public hearing were held March 2nd. The second reading is scheduled for April 6th. At this point it would just be the financial section of the TIF that would change, following steps include a zoning change and developer’s agreement change. Staff will looking into the density.

Jonathan asked if there is any information that the REDC members can provide that will be helpful. Mike noted he is looking for statistics on residential life style centers outside of the urban core. He noted it would also be helpful to find information on how these lifestyle centers are beneficial to the community’s downtowns. Ron noted that it would beneficial for the City Council and Planning Board to visit out local lifestyle projects. He also noted that a lot of consumers are buying online and we need to shift our residential to surround our shopping areas to help support them. Paul ask if residential wasn’t approved what the likelihood of phase 2 being built out 100% would be. The group agreed with Ron and Paul and continued the discussion. Jonathan suggested that it might be prudent to bring in an

Economist to help show the impacts.

The Mayor noted she would be reaching back out to the REDC as she works with other local municipalities on things we can do to help developers with adding housing projects to the Seacoast and beyond in NH. She will keep the group posted.

Whitney Belton was excused from the meeting.

1. There was no discussion and the meeting was running late.

Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 am, Mark seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, all in favor.

The next meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on April 27th at 8:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenn Marsh