



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom and at Foundry 66
April 22, 2021

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Robert Buckley called the meeting to order at 8:05 am and established a quorum.

Present: Robert Buckley, Robert Staley, Chris LaRose, John Salomone, Kathy LaCombe, Mayor Peter Nystrom, Stacy Gould, Swarnjit Singh, Jason Jones, Frank Manfredi, Chris Jewell and Mark Bettencourt. **Absent:** Michael Rauh and Rebecca Alberts. **Other Attendees:** Mark Block, Fawn Walker, Devin Schleidit, Suki Lagrito and Lee Ann D'Ambrosio. **Guests:** Claire Bessette.

2. In order to have a quorum, Mayor Peter Nystrom volunteered to abstain from voting so that a quorum could be established and votes could be taken.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Robert Staley presented the monthly financials. Mr. Staley reported that NCDC had completed the PPP forgiveness application. Once approved, the loan would be turned into a grant and repayment would not be required.

MOTION #1: Frank Manfredi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jason Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. **MOTION #2:** Chris Jewell made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2021 Board meeting as presented. Kathy LaCombe seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Robert Buckley requested a motion to move the meeting into Executive Session.

MOTION #3: Jason Jones made a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:17 am. Stacy Gould seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

6. Bob Buckley asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session.

MOTION #4: Frank Manfredi made a motion to exit the Executive Session. Mark Bettencourt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously at 8:26 am.

The Board discussed having a special meeting to discuss budget items. The special Executive Session was scheduled for Friday, April 30, 2021 at 8:00 am.

7. **NCDC Update:** Fawn Walker thanked the Search Committee for their efforts and time commitment to screen all the resumes for the position of President and then meet with the top ten candidates. Fawn reported that the redevelopment on the Ponemah Mill South was moving ahead and the project would be receiving additional funds from the DECD Grant Program.

8. **Foundry 66 Update:** Mary Riley provided an update on Foundry 66 and the Sunlight Building.

9. **Global City Norwich Update:** Suki Lagrito was not available so Devin Schleidt gave a brief update on Global City Norwich. He and Suki are looking at a possible extension of the Street Lighting Project to other parts of downtown Norwich. Suki Lagrito is working with the City Planning Office to produce a master inventory list of all the available properties in Norwich.

John Salomone reported that by May 19 most outdoor Covid-19 restrictions in Norwich will be eliminated allowing the City to once again have outdoor special events and festivals.

10. **New Business:** Chris Jewell reported that the Celebration of Life for Jason Vincent will be moved from Sunday, April 25 to the following Sunday, May 2nd due to inclement weather.

11. **Old Business:** Robert Buckley reported that he was not successful on getting a resale value for NCDC's trailer. Mark Block suggested using the property assessment of the trailer as a baseline to determine how much to sell it for. Devin Schleidt will get the information to Mr. Buckley.

Robert Buckley asked the Board if they had any changes to the draft of the NCDC Employee Handbook. It was agreed that Jason Vincent's name be removed from the handbook. Mr. Buckley asked for a motion to approve the NCDC Employee Handbook.

MOTION #5: Stacy Gould made a motion to approve the NCDC Employee Handbook with the edits accepted. Jason Jones seconded the motion. Chris Jewell abstained from the vote and ten members were in favor and the motion carried.

12. Robert Buckley requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION #6: Frank Manfredit made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stacy Gould seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously at 8:52 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Lee Ann D'Ambrosio
Executive Assistant