

**CITY OF NEW RICHMOND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
Thursday, July 16, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Economic Development Commission was called to order by President Mike Darrow at 7:32 a.m. on July 16, 2015.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Susan Lockwood, Summer Seidenkranz, John Walsh, John Soderberg, Jim Zajkowski, Scott Jones, Karl Skoglund and Mike Darrow

Members Absent: Chris Polfus, Judy Simon and Rob Kreibich

Others Present: Beth Thompson, Kari Kraft and Mark Mitchell

Summer Seidenkranz moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Karl Skoglund, and carried.

Jim Zajkowski moved to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2015 meeting, seconded by Summer Seidenkranz, and carried.

Welcome Rob Kreibich

Rob was not present at the meeting, however, Mike Darrow informed the Commissioners that Rob was appointed as a new EDC member.

Federal Foam Overview – Cathy Longtin

Cathy gave an overview of Federal Foam's history, operations, and future hopes for expansion. They are currently running out of space in their current facility.

Committee Updates – Beth Thompson/Mike Darrow

Marketing and Site Visit Committee

The marketing piece was sent out to 375 builders in the Twin Cities and Western Wisconsin, was posted on the City's website, Facebook and Twitter and was published in surrounding community newspapers. (MN Business Journal, Star Tribune and Pioneer Press). The committee decided to spend a little bit of money to advertise the City of New Richmond on Facebook and also "boost" the post on the impact fee structure changes in an effort to increase development interest.

Surpassed the marketing committee's goal of 950 Facebook "likes." The 2015 goal is 1400 "likes."

This committee has had a lot of success in meeting with area businesses to discuss needs and to get feedback on the City's performance in helping to retain and attract businesses. Additional talking points included marketing the City's new impact fee structure and discussing development opportunities.

Downtown Plan Implementation Committee

There have been meetings with the downtown businesses regarding the parklet concept. A plan for this concept was submitted by S.E.H. to the WI DOT. It appears that this document has been stalled in Madison. Beth will talk to downtown business owners to update them on the status of the project.

Business Updates

Barley Johns Brewery

Anticipated opening is mid-July, however, John Moore stated that they are still waiting on some of the Federal and State licenses that he needs in order to begin brewing.

45th Parallel & Distillery

The addition to 45th Parallel has been completed

Phillips Medisize

The project is on schedule for completion. The concrete floor has been poured and some inside framing has been done.

Croft Apartments

The project is moving along and the roof was recently completed.

WH St. Croix Building Project

The ground has been broken for the new St. Croix Station building to be located behind Maurice's.

Gold Ready Site – Momentum West

Received formal approval as a Gold Shovel Ready sites for 17 parcels of land in the business and technical park. The next step for the City is to start marketing these development ready sites on the State of WI's "Locate in Wisconsin" property database. There were suggestions from the group that prices for the lots should be listed or marketed at "Sites starting at \$1,000 per acre."

Site Selectors Guild – FAM Tour

City staff hosted the site selectors and gave a presentation on why businesses should choose New Richmond. This was seen as a positive experience for New Richmond, and we received some positive feedback on the quality of our available land.

Northside Redevelopment

Businesses on the north side of the City (from Subway to Pete's Pizza) will be invited to attend a breakfast on August 14th from 8 am – 9 am to discuss opportunities for redevelopment and the things that they would like to see on the north side.

St. Croix EDC – Mark Mitchell

Mark discussed the success of the FAM Tour from the perspective of Momentum West.

NRAEDC – John Soderberg

John gave an update on the bridge work to date and also mentioned that a business is interested in moving to New Richmond but would need access to a Railroad.

Chamber of Commerce

No updates.

Announcements /Communications:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Susan Lockwood to adjourn, seconded by Scott Jones, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

A tour of the Federal Foam facility was offered to any interested parties.

Minutes by Kari Kraft

cc: Mayor Horne, Clerk and City Council