

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Economic Development Committee – Joint Workgroup Meeting

EDC Members Present: Ed Morrell, Sheree Hedrick, Paul White, Barry Perry

EDC Members Absent: Lesia McKensie, Don Brown, Dr. Connie Jones

Staff Present: Allison Rice, David Bergmark

Guests: None

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The meeting was held in the Conference Room at Town Hall, 15 E. Fourth Street.

Barry Perry made a motion to approve the minutes from March 23, 2016. Sheree Hedrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Perry said that Edible Arrangements were moving in to Knotts Square in the next 6 weeks. Ms. Hedrick said 1903 would be having a soft opening soon.

The EDC went over Item 5A: review and discussion on downtown parking letter. Mr. Perry said it was a good letter, and well written, but that it was unnecessary at that time. He said they should hold on to it till later. The rest of the EDC agreed.

Ms. Rice talked about the Spring Fling. Mr. Perry said he would be having a gun promotion that Friday and Saturday. Mr. White suggested Wine 101 do a promotion that Saturday from 3-5. He said he would call the manager about doing a promotion. He said Bravos and Brown Bag Bagels and the General Store should do the same.

The EDC went over item 5B: update on economic development incentives for the 250+ acre site at the intersection of Wendell Boulevard and US64. Mr. White briefed the EDC on Wake County Economic Development and their search for an industrial site. Mr. Bergmark said he had put together an RFP for that site, but that he had found out that it was out of the running because there wasn't a certified site agreement. Ms. Hedrick said they needed to tell property owners that they had lost a bid because of this.

Mr. White said he had a meeting with Carolantic about getting an ABC store and distribution warehouse.

Mr. Bergmark talked to the EDC about item 5C: revisit downtown overlay district. He said they might change the language to distinguish between franchises vs. non franchises. Mr. White said another concern were the warehouses downtown. Mr. Perry said that wasn't a concern for him anymore because he converted his storage space behind his shop into retail/sales.

Mr. Perry talked about a manufacturing business looking for a space in Wendell.

The EDC talked about Wendell Tap Room and the building the housed Mortex Outlet.

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Mr. Morrell said that the overlay district was like the parking letter, a good idea but it wasn't a good time to implement.

Mr. Bergmark talk to the members about reapplying for the EDC.

Ed Morrell said that he had introduced the idea to write letters to different successful area businesses, inviting them to do business in Wendell. He said he had written a draft letter to send, and showed it to the EDC. Everyone on the EDC agreed it was a good idea. Everyone on the EDC agreed that Town Hall should be a point of contact. Mr. White said he would sign the letters on behalf of the EDC. The EDC agreed they didn't need to make comments before the letter was sent out. They agreed that the someone should follow the letter with a phone call. Mr. Morrell said he wanted to meet with the head of the Chamber, the Mayor, and town staff to make a list of people to send the letter to. Mr. White suggested they talk to Wine 101 for contacts.

The meeting was adjourned.