

**Wednesday, September 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**Economic Development Committee – Joint Workgroup Meeting**

**EDC Members Present:** Ed Morrell, Sheree Hedrick, Paul White, Lesia McKensie, Berry Perry

**EDC Members Absent:** Ginny Porter, Don Brown, Connie Jones, Keisha King

**Staff Present:** David Bergmark, Allison Rice

**Guests:** Commissioner Gina Gray

=====

Staff, EDC members, and Commissioner Gray departed from Wendell Town Hall at 10:15 AM for Downtown Apex.

The group arrived at Apex Chamber of Commerce, 220 N Salem St, Apex, at 11 AM to meet with Apex Arts Council President R.T. Crowley and J.C. Knowles from the Apex Downtown Business Association. Mr. Crowley gave the group a history of Apex from its founding as a lumber railroad town to the present. Both men answered questions posed by the group about the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Association, and the Town of Apex. They explained to the group how the Town had become revitalized over the past 15 years, and described some of the programs that sparked growth. Afterwards they gave the group a brief tour of Downtown Apex and continued their conversations at Peak City Bar and Grill.

The group met with Kelly Shatat and her staff at Moon and Lola Design Studio. She gave them a tour of her production space and offices, described her business structure, and talked about the pros and cons of a small-scale open plan manufacturing space in Downtown Apex.

The EDC met with Bruce Radford, Town Manager for the Town of Apex at the Town Hall at 2 PM. He outlined his experiences with revitalization as Selma Town Manager and Apex Town Manager. He described how the Town Council offered to pay rent for antique businesses moving to Downtown Selma, which initiated downtown buildings being sold and renovated, and an industry being formed almost overnight. He explained what the Town of Apex did to encourage Downtown investment, in terms of façade grants, streetscape improvements, and public parking. He said Apex had recently hired an Economic Development Director. He said the town had also built a new skate park that was a huge success at a cost of approximately 1 million dollars.

The EDC, staff, and Commissioner Gray returned to Wendell at 4 PM.