

MINUTES
TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Town Council Chambers, 525 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo
October 10, 2017

Committee Members Present: Chair Brian Colbert, Rich Burns, Benedetto Cico, Deborah Knuckey, Heidi Mejia.

Committee Member Absent: Andrew Galbraith, DeeDee Iacopi, Aaron Singer, Kim Stuart.

Others Present: Town Council Members John Wright and Matt Brown, Town Manager Donery, Director of Building and Public Works Condry, Director of Community Services Mauk, Planning Director Semonian.

Call to Order: Chair Colbert called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2017: Upon motion made by Cico, seconded by Mejia and unanimously carried, the EDC approved the September 12, 2017, minutes.

Open Time for Public Expression: Steve Lamb suggested the Town consider what it wants to accomplish when it considers location of paid parking spaces. He noted there is a concern with rats in the downtown area, near Creek Park.

Discussion/Action Items:

Sign Program Update. Rich Burns presented a draft plan of signage intended to direct people to the downtown area. The plan would also clean up the existing signs and have a uniform brand. Public comment included Richard Berkson, who suggested conveying the town character in the signage, such as a nickname or slogan. Steve Lamb suggested they consider how bicycles will view the signage, such as a two-sided banner. The EDC supported the draft plan, including a banner to define the entrance to downtown at Tunstead Avenue, and thanked Mr. Burns.

Economic Development Plan Richard Berkson described the proposed Economic Development Plan document, which would lay a foundation for future action plans and inform the public and decision makers. The document could also serve as a public relations piece to attract businesses to the community. He has met with staff to obtain data and is getting their feedback on the plan. He has a graphic designer that will assist with the format. He will return at a future meeting with a draft. The EDC thanked Mr. Berkson.

Cannabis Business Uses – EDC Recommendation to Town Council The EDC heard a presentation from staff regarding current cannabis regulations and cannabis business uses that the State will begin licensing in January 2018. EDC members provided feedback to the Council members present.

Ms. Mejia was interested in receiving additional information so the community can vet the issues and potential consequences, including security concerns and underage use. She wanted a cautious and measured approach. She noted the high social costs for alcohol.

Mr. Cico indicated the Chamber of Commerce had not met and discussed the issue. He personally was

concerned regarding business uses, as it is a Federal crime and there may be consequences to the Town. He was concerned that the cash businesses would attract criminals and there may be an increase in DUIs. He was concerned with current levels of drug use and believed the moral aspect outweighed any revenue that they would generate. He noted the majority of residents were in favor of legalization and suggested they solicit public opinion. He was concerned with maintaining the economic vitality of downtown.

Brian Colbert had unanswered questions about the businesses and their revenue potential. He believed families of young children should be engaged in the discussion. He did not believe business plans presented to the Town Council have been well vetted. He noted a New York Times article that indicated the price in the secondary market might be lower than dispensaries, so people may not change their purchasing patterns.

Steve Lamb indicated that security could be handles like other uses, like a jewelry store.

Richard Berkson suggested the Town attract businesses that will have a positive benefit on the Town and he did not think dispensaries would have that benefit.

What's New in San Anselmo Business Staff noted that the Ethan Russell photography gallery is opening at 556 San Anselmo Avenue on October 15 and the grand opening will be October 28 and 29, 2017. The Creekside Pizza and Taproom will have a grand opening on October 12.

Adjourn: Chair Colbert adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.