

MINUTES
TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Special Online Zoom Meeting
March 30, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Jamie Ginsberg, Rich Burns, Benedetto Cico, Kim Pipkin, Jessica Rising, Brian Stewart, Kelley Warner.

Committee Member Absent: None.

Others Present: Town Council Member Wright, Town Manager Donery, Building and Public Works Director Condry, Assistant Public Works Director Schneider, Recreation Director of Community Services Mauk, Planning Director Semonian, Associate Planner Price, Permit Technician Laptev.

Call to Order: Chair Ginsberg called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m..

Open Time for Public Expression: None.

COVID-19 Shelter in Place Discussion Items:

Update from staff – Donery provided an update regarding the Town’s efforts to respond to the COVID 19 shelter in place order including working with the Chamber of Commerce on sananselmoeats.com, closing the parking lots for parks, and a new website page with resources for businesses. Condry indicated what public works and building activities are continuing. David Swaim indicated real estate agents can provide construction disclosures for resales and indicated the new Red Hill median landscaping looks great.

Update from Chamber of Commerce: Cico reported on sananselmoeats.com and that any business that stays open in the town can be listed on the site, not just restaurants. They are putting together a document for restaurant health and safety. In response to a question from Wright, Semonian confirmed that no town action is necessary to make grants available for businesses. Rising noted that delivery businesses are currently growing. Cico reported that the bookstore is using a third party to deliver books. Rising indicated that Good Earth is using TownFlyr.com bike delivery service.

Kira Swaim suggested setting up a GoFundMe for service workers. Pat Townsley at the Chamber of Commerce is working on this. David Swaim suggested the Town contact landlords to remind them that the businesses are struggling. Stewart indicated some landlords are not waiving rent as financial aid or business interruption insurance may cover rent. It was noted that the County has passed a resolution that precludes evictions. Cico indicated that the unemployed and low-level workers need assistance.

Ginsberg encourage everyone to email Donery, Semonian or himself any ideas and they will be distributed.

Discuss SAVE (San Anselmo Volunteer Effort) Mauk reported that Recreation launched a program on Friday through the Town newsletter and website to match volunteers with seniors that need assistance. They are working on launching a “stay and play at home” program to help keep kids entertained. Their childcare teachers delivered packages of extra supplies to their clients. They will begin an Instagram program. They have contact information for local seniors through the Age Friendly Task Force survey and can reach out to some by phone, mail and churches. People should email her if they have suggestions.

Ginsberg asked everyone to use their own networks of communication to spread the word about the various programs.

Brainstorming how to support businesses and neighbors:

The EDC approved of Rising starting a task force to proactively reach out to business owners, as well as landlords and residents, to identify their needs and let them know the town cares. The group would improve communication to and from businesses to provide them with the information and resources that they need. Donery indicated staff has the capacity to make the phone calls and intake phone numbers and web sites. Brian Colbert thinks it is an interesting issue they have discussed in the past that is worth pursuing. He thought they should clarify the vision of this group versus the Chamber or downtown merchants Facebook group. Wright agreed to serve on the Covid 19 Business Implementation Team. Semonian suggested the task force work on anything needed to support the businesses as soon as they can open again, such as banner signage. Ginsberg felt resident safety should be above all else.

Other county initiatives to address the liquidity crisis Colbert is skeptical about loans since it may be difficult to small business to repay loans. He suggested following efforts of Supervisor Connelly, a working group in San Rafael and Cynthia Murray in Sonoma.

Adjourn - Ginsberg adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.