



MINUTES

CITY OF NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

Friday, December 4, 2020

The New Albany Community Improvement Corporation met virtually via Zoom, on Friday, December 4, 2020. President Philip Smith called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Present:

CIC Board: Philip Smith, Ron Davies, Colleen Briscoe, Jim Baron, Everett Gallagher, Joe Stefanov, Jennifer Chrysler, Bethany Staats, Sloan Spalding

Absent: N/A

Guests: Jackie Russell, Angela Hobart, Allison Criger,

Minutes

Motion by Baron to accept the meeting minutes from the July 27, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Briscoe. Motion approved.

Rent Holiday

Staats provided an explanation of the Rent Holiday program. Staats outlined that this program was a part of the New Albany small business grant program and indicated that the final dollar amount will be determined and paid to the CIC once all opt-in forms have been processed from each tenant. Discussion occurred amongst the CIC about the best way to distribute the funds to not indicate a loss for the city. Staats recommended changing the name of the program to the Rent Grant program, which was support by the other members. Chrysler motioned to authorize the fiscal officer to accept the CARES Act funding and provide rent grants to eligible tenants at Innovate New Albany. Seconded by Briscoe. Motioned passed.

Draft ED Plan

Chrysler provided an update on the Economic Development Plan. The primary purpose of this plan was to update the original 2006 Economic Development Plan and provide guidance for the development department's work. There are several other targeted studies that need completed in the future after the base plan is updated. There were two highlights in the proposed plan. The first was an industry cluster analysis which confirmed



the current industry clusters that are a part of the city's attraction strategy. The supporting data suggests that these clusters are relevant and could potentially expand into subclusters, i.e. distribution and logistics and healthcare, based on supporting data. The second highlight included a recommendation regarding the role of the incubator within the city and its importance within the overall economic development strategy for the community. The plan confirms that this work is important and provides value to the economic ecosystem within the city; however, now the city must determine what we do with it and where to go from here. Smith asked and Chrysler answered that the proposed plan would receive a "B-" to a "C" letter grade – but indicated that the city received a product that was covered in the scope of the project. The city leads the region and state in economic development programming (much of which is informal and not documented in plan form) and as anticipated there were really no "aha" moments. Memorializing work and creating a broad action plan for the future is the right thing to do foundationally for the community and the plan accomplished that task.

Both Baron and Gallagher commented that they were disappointed in the lack of mention of small businesses and wanted the plan to include a deeper dive into strategies and tools to help grow these businesses within the community. Spalding also added that it would be nice to get existing benchmark information and strategy from other municipalities who have a formalized small business program. Gallagher added that some of the recommendations seem to not consider COVID and should be provided considering the potential new focus. It is clear that the office market in every industry is changing and this is going to impact economic development strategies. Briscoe added that she would have also liked to understand some ramifications of COVID. Briscoe stated that the plan summary was not well written – which made it very unclear. Smith asked if there were any recommendations on something new or exciting the city could try with respect to infrastructure and/or programming. This is a city that has the ability to try different things to not only stay relevant but also stay on the leading edge with economic development. Briscoe responded that the city is exploring how we can build from our existing fiber network to provide fiber to the homes in 2021. Several communities in central Ohio attempted this years ago but the technology just really wasn't there. We are using the fiber as a backbone for our new smart signals and this is a good time to explore the capabilities with new technology. This is something that could be a benefit to our residents and also an economic development strategy if more employees are permanently working from home.

Chrysler summarized the concerns and asked for members to share additional comments by the end of the week; the staff hopes to wrap up the plan by the end of the year.

Other Business

Smith suggested January 5th at 4:00PM for the annual meeting. CIC members agreed.



Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn (4:05 p.m.) by Gallagher. Seconded by Smith. Motion approved.

Ronald H. Davies

Secretary, CIC Board of Trustees

April 5, 2021

Date