

EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT

## CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

P. O. Box 9422  
25 Cottage Road  
South Portland, ME 04116-9422

Scott Morelli  
City Manager

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **Economic Development Committee**

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017**

**6:00 PM**

**City Hall – Council Chambers**

**Attendees:**

Ross Little – District 2  
Stephen Bushey – District 3  
Bruce Bennett – District 5  
Joshua Reny – Asst. City Manager

Joel Ouellette – District 2  
Peter Stocks – District 4  
Bob O'Brien – Business

**Guests:**

Craig Gorris, Maine Mall

Adam Nyhan, Opticliff Law

**Absent:**

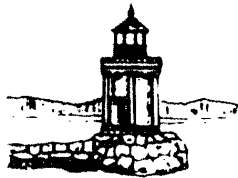
Martha Riehle – District 1  
Brandon Mitchell – Business  
Fawn Dunphy – Business

David Schneider – District 1  
Ed Palmer – Business

1. Committee Chair Ross Little called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. Minutes – Motion by Stocks second by O'Brien to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting. All in favor.
3. Ross welcomed guest speaker Craig Gorris, GM of the Maine Mall, and Adam Nyhan. Craig spoke about some of the current challenges as the retail industry, and particularly some of the larger chain stores, adapt to a changing market. He discussed a variety of changes that are underway or anticipated, and opportunities for new investment and growth in the future. In the coming months there are likely to be announcements of businesses closing and new businesses opening or expanding. There is a lot of investment happening around the mall area and the potential for new housing in the general area will be a good thing.
4. Project Updates – Bruce invited everyone to attend a community engagement event in the West End on Friday, July 6. The City is co-sponsoring the event and

many community leaders and public officials have been invited. There will be food and a cultural performance. Adam updated the group on the upcoming Maine Startup and Create Week. The event is a week long, and on the Monday there is a Mixpo event at Cloudport that Committee members may want to attend. Bob and Joel plan to be there on Tuesday morning. Josh will be attending Food Launch on Thursday of that week. Adam discussed the Pitch SoPo event with the Committee. There is a task list that will be emailed. Josh and Ross committed to reaching out to some banks to identify a primary event sponsor. It is estimated that about \$6,000 will be needed to have a successful event with modest prize money to award.

5. EDC/Council Workshop – On June 26 the Committee will have an opportunity to speak with the City Council about the need to increase capacity to do the work outlined in the 2016 Economic Development Strategic Plan. The City’s Consultant, Karl Seidman, will give a presentation describing the goals and tasks, and providing some comparative data from other Communities. He will describe the various models, including public-private partnerships and municipal ED offices. Committee members are encouraged to attend and make their recommendations.
6. Adjournment – Motion by Stocks seconded by Bushey to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. All in favor.



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**Wednesday, July 26, 2017**  
**6:00 PM**  
**City Hall – Council Chambers**

***Meeting cancelled due to absence of a quorum. The following notes were kept for record.***

1. Ross Little read an email message from Peter Stocks, who recently resigned from the Committee. Peter thanked the Committee members and wished them best of luck. He is also happy to help with any aquaculture issues that may arise.
2. Josh Reny provided an update on the branding/marketing initiative. He has been in contact with Rumbletree and will be forwarding some homework to Committee members. They would like to meet in person with the Committee at either the September or October meeting.
3. Adam Nyhan provided an update on the pitch event, which was subsequently named Startup South Portland. Adam is meeting with Josh and Ross on Friday to iron out some of the next steps. The first priority is to get something up on the website and Facebook and start registering participants. In the coming weeks a sponsor should be identified to provide some prize money. The tentative dates for Startup South Portland are September 13, 20, and 27.
4. Ross Little discussed the 2017 Business Awards. Ross, Marti, and hopefully Fawn will be the subcommittee for planning and reviewing nominations.
5. Ross Little would like the Committee to host a speaking event in the fall and invite Mike Dubyak to present on the Focus Maine initiative.