



Lowell City Council

Economic Dev. SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 26, 2019
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Mayor's Reception Room
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Kennedy, C. Milinazzo and C. Noun. Also present were C. Conway, C. Elliott, C. Leahy, Dianne Tradd (DPD), Maria Dickinson (DPD), Andrew Shapiro (DPD), Tom Lamond (DPD), Manager Donoghue, M. Samaras, Craig Thomas (DPD), Joe Giniewicz (DPD), Kara Keefe – Mullin (Asst. City Mgr.), and C. Cirillo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM in the Mayor's Reception Room.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Jay Linnehan (Greater Lowell Community Foundation) commented on the Lowell Waterways Initiative and its importance to the community. Fred Faust (Lowell Waterways Vitality Initiative) noted there has been City support for all of their projects and that the community is involved in all of their projects. Chris Hayes (Project Manager) outlined the following completed projects of the Initiative: Central Firehouse Bell Tower; Light up Locks; Cox Bridge; Restoration of Art; Points of Light Lanterns; and Western Canal Clean-Up. Mr. Hayes commented on proposed projects. Mr. Faust outlined the costs of lighting and ongoing projects and that grants assist the process greatly. Mr. Hayes outlined Lower Locks project and noted costs are high but it would assist economic development in the City. Mr. Hayes outlined why the project is needed; why it should be done now; the partnerships involved; and what can be done by the City to assist. C. Milinazzo noted the partnerships involved and the work of the Greater Lowell Community Involvement. Mr. Linnehan noted the interest of the partners and the community in these projects. C. Milinazzo noted that grants could be garnered as the projects involve infrastructure. Mr. Faust outlined efforts on the part of the City: coordinate partner meetings; leverage for grants; and include in economic development plans. C. Kennedy commented on Lower Lock repairs and the Swamp Lock project. C. Kennedy noted that in addition to lighting other events should take place to attract larger crowds. C. Leahy noted the need to ensure pedestrians are safe in the downtown area. Manager Donoghue noted that



meetings with some partners are already happening. M. Samaras noted the partnerships and noted that federal partners should be involved as well.

Ms. Tradd began presentation entitled “Economic Development in Lowell”. Mr. Shapiro commented on the Hamilton Canal Innovation District noting the marketing efforts. Mr. Giniewicz commented on the following projects in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District: Parking Garage; Parking Options; WaterMark; and Winn Development. C. Leahy noted that parking will be a challenge in the area and that established parking for Mill No. 5 should not be disturbed. C. Elliott commented on the time frame when City would have control of site so to quicken process along. Manager Donoghue noted there have been many discussions regarding construction of a private parking garage. Mr. Giniewicz outlined the Ayer City Industrial Park project and the Tanner Street Re-alignment. C. Kennedy questioned the time it was taking to move project. Ms. Tradd commented on the development delay. C. Nuon commented on funding issues. **Motion** by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Milinazzo to have DPD work with Law Department and provide update regarding parcels that are affected by Land Court proceedings. So voted. Ms. Tradd commented on the Land Court proceedings. C. Milinazzo noted that the department has many large projects moving forward and commented on the delays. C. Kennedy noted that the area is a large industrial tract that is important for City to develop. Manager Donoghue noted the Tanner Street work was needed and that there is development interest and it has excellent grant opportunity. C. Elliott commented on the Silresim Site and development potential. Mr. Shapiro outlined following efforts put forth by the DPD: identified the team; recognition of efforts; small business support; LDFC Downtown Venture Fund; sign and façade grant programs; retention/relocation loans; technical assistance; TIF agreements; and housing programs.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Milinazzo, seconded by C. Nuon “To Recess”. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

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