

## **Anchorage Economic Revitalization and Diversification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 3/14/22 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Mike Robbins, Lori Brewer, Larry Cash, Melanie Lucas-Conwell, Alan Erickson, David Hoffman, Bill Popp, Shane Rinner, Brandon Spoerhase, Bill Taylor, Shawn Williams, and Brian Mentzer – Facilitator

**Committee Members Absent:** Co-Chairman Paul Landes, Hugh Ashlock, Caren Mathis, & Evelyn Rouso

**Members of the Public Present:** Julie Sandie, Commissioner – Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

- 1) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.
- 2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the February 28th, 2022 meeting were distributed electronically in advance of the meeting. A motion to approve was made and seconded, and an amendment to the minutes was offered clarifying that Michelle Klouda is with RIM, not TSAIA, and correcting the spelling of Raquele Edelen's name. The motion was amended and was approved.
- 3) Chairman's Comments:** Mike Robbins welcomed Commissioner Julie Sande to the meeting, and she shared a few words of introduction. Mr. Robbins mentioned that the opportunity of coordinating more intentionally with RVSA by having a representative from their group appointed to our committee was extended and is being considered. The Chairman also shared that an invitation has been extended to the Foraker Group to attend one of our upcoming meetings to present information regarding the Non-Profit Sector in Anchorage. The Downtown Library project is in full swing, and Sami Graham is working on that project. The State has announced a new round of grant applications for the childcare industry. At the recent AEDC Luncheon it was announced that FedEx is investing nearly \$200 million in a new sorting facility at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Congratulations to Bill Popp on a great event. And a large company, representing hundreds of jobs, is moving into Anchorage. The official announcement will be forwarded when the details are made public.
- 4) Old Business - Top 5 Initiatives... Subcommittees:**
  - a.) **The Denai'na Medical Parkway Subcommittee:** David Hoffman shared that there were no new updates from the committee as their next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2022.
  - b.) **The Planning and Zoning Subcommittee:** Bill Taylor gave the update. Caren Mathis, Bill Taylor, Former Development Services Mgr. Ron Thompson, and OECD Director Adam Trombley met to discuss the building services side of the permitting process. The Inspections and Public Counter functions were focus points. Presently, it's not Project Facilitators that are needed, it's a Building Services Manager with building code and construction management experience. Training on the new Title 23 and Title 21 code amendments (for staff and the public), education and outreach on automated

permit and inspection system and morale building among development service and planning staff are all needed to facilitate the permitting process. For the mayor and the administration to accomplish economic development project priorities, the OECD Director needs a replacement for Ron Thompson's position.

- c.) **The People Mover Subcommittee:** There was no update from this subcommittee.
- d.) **The JBER "Eagle Team" Subcommittee:** Brian Mentzer gave the update. Raquele Edelen, Lori Brewer and Brian Mentzer met on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss ways the Community of Anchorage is presently involved with showing support for, appreciation for, and connecting with the base leadership, servicemen, servicewomen, and their families at JBER. The following organizations and programs were considered: 1.) The JBER Anchorage Community Partnership; 2.) The Honorary Commander Program; 3.) The Chamber of Commerce Military Committee; and 4.) The Military and Veterans Affairs Commission. On Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Lori Brewer and Brian Mentzer met with Bruce Bustamante, President and CEO, and George Vakalis, Chairman of the Military Committee of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. They are actively involved with JBER on numerous levels. From their annual Military Appreciation Picnic averaging 3,500 to 8,000 in attendance, to training opportunities, to BRAC Events, the chamber is quite actively involved in enhancing the relationship between the base and the MOA.
- e.) **The Ship Creek Waterfront Development Subcommittee:** The initial meeting for the subcommittee will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

**5) New Business:** Lori Brewer mentioned the need for a new subcommittee to focus on Tourism and Downtown Beautification. It was the consensus of the committee to add this new group with members Lori Brewer and Raquele Edelen. The meeting schedule for Q-2, 2022 was discussed and it was the consensus of the committee to keep meeting on a bi-weekly basis. Melanie Lucas-Conwell shared a brief overview of C-PACE which is a special assessment-based financing mechanism for commercial property owners and developers to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation projects.

**6) Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**7) Next Meeting:** The next meeting of AERDAC will be on 3/28/22 at 4:00 pm.

**8) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mentzer