

Anchorage Economic Revitalization and Diversification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 1/10/22 @ 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Mike Robbins, Co-Chairman Paul Landes, Lori Brewer, Melanie Lucas-Conwell, Alan Erickson, David Hoffman, Caren Mathis, Bill Popp, Evelyn Rousso, Brandon Spoerhase, Jim Szczesniak, Shawn Williams, & Brian Mentzer – Facilitator

Committee Members Absent: Julie Anderson, Hugh Ashlock, Larry Cash, Shane Rinner, & Bill Taylor

Members of the Public Present: Cyrus Aldeman - Anchorage Trolley Tours; Kevin Berry – Economics Professor with UAA; & Jason Motyka - 49th State Brewing Company

- 1) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by the Chairman.
- 2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the December 13th, 2021 meeting were distributed electronically in advance of the meeting. A motion to approve was made and seconded, and the motion carried.
- 3) Chairman's Comments:** Mike Robbins wished those in attendance a Happy New Year and expressed his optimism in looking forward to AERDAC's work in 2022 in advancing actionable recommendations to the mayor and the administration.

4) Old Business

- **Meeting With Mayor Bronson Recap – Letter of Top 10 Recommendations to the Mayor, Childcare Development Report & Development in Anchorage:** Paul Landes and Mike Robbins shared details of their meeting with Mayor Bronson. The mayor expressed his appreciation for the work of the committee in regard to the recommendations forwarded to his office as well as the Childcare Subcommittee Report which he will be sharing with the governor for the purpose of releasing funds to Anchorage Childcare Providers and reducing the time of background checks. The clarification was made that AERDAC should serve as a “cheerleader” for recommendations made by the committee as well as current projects which can significantly impact the economy of Anchorage like the Eklutna Subdivision Project which would result in over 1,242 new single-family homes and, in addition, numerous multi-family townhomes. The list of 10 recommendations was reduced to 4 and another was added to the mix (Ship Creek Framework) for a total of 5 initiatives for AERDAC to fully investigate and communicate our findings using the Childcare Subcommittee as a template for our work.
- **Top 5 Initiatives:** During the discussion, brief updates were mentioned, and committee members were asked to volunteer to serve on subcommittees regarding these 5 initiatives.

- i. **Support the Elmore/Bragaw Rd. extension to enhance development and economic sustainability for UAA, APU, ANTHC, and Providence Hospital in the UMED District** – Approximately \$22 million has been allocated by the State for this project. Subcommittee Members: Mike Robbins, David Hoffman, & Melanie Lucas-Conwell
 - ii. **Encourage project facilitators and third-party commercial plan reviewers for large projects in planning and zoning** – A deeper dive in concert with officials in Planning would be the next step. Subcommittee Members: Jim Szczesniak, Caren Mathis & Bill Taylor
 - iii. **Update and strategically improve People Mover** – The 6th Ave Garage and moving the transit center in 2023 was discussed. Subcommittee Members: Mike Robbins, Evelyn Russo, & Cyrus Aldeman
 - iv. **Establish a JBER “Eagle Team”** – Needs to be developed quickly. Subcommittee Members: Lori Brewer, Bill Popp, Mike Robbins, & Brian Mentzer
 - v. **Support the 2014 Ship Creek Waterfront Development Framework Plan** – A P-3 Development Group has approached the mayor about this project. Subcommittee Members: Shawn Williams, Caren Mathis, Brandon Spoerhase, Bill Popp, & Jason Motyka
- The following updates for some of the remaining 6 AERDAC recommendations were mentioned:** The location for the Downtown Library has been selected and will be the old city hall building. Enhanced safety measures are being implemented by APD downtown. And the recommendation of continuing the COVID take away policy for Alcohol, which is valuable for downtown restaurants, has been assigned to the administration for implementation.
- **Discuss Ship Creek Framework Plan:** The concept of development on the waterfront in concert with the repairs, refurbishment, and re-development of the Port of Alaska in Anchorage was discussed. This is crucial for the travel industry. The Railroad and other stakeholders need to be involved in the process of giving perspective and input.
 - **Meeting Dates for Q-1, 2022: Jan 10 & 31, Feb 14 & 28, Mar 14 & 28:** Two calendar invites have been sent to committee members.

5) New Business: No new business was discussed.

6) Public Comments: There were no public comments.

7) Next Meeting: The next meeting of AERDAC will be on 1/31/22 at 4:00 pm.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mentzer