

Anchorage Economic Revitalization and Diversification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 10/04/21 @ 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Mike Robbins, Julie Anderson, Lori Brewer, Larry Cash, David Hoffman, Caren Mathis, Bill Popp, Evelyn Rousso, Jim Szczesniak, Bill Taylor, and Shawn Williams. Brian Mentzer, facilitator, was also present.

Committee Members Absent: Co-Chair Paul Landes, Hugh Ashlock, and Alan Erickson

Members of the Public Present: Melanie Lucas-Conwell, 49th State Angel Fund

- 1) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by the Chairman.
- 2) Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the September 27th, 2021 meeting were read. A motion to approve was made and seconded, and the motion carried.
- 3) Chairman's Comments:** Mike Robbins welcomed the members of the committee and moved directly into the topics of discussion for the meeting.

4) Old Business

- **Statement of Endorsement:** A final version of the letter to the Mayor endorsing his initiative regarding the Municipal Office of Development Services, Permits and Inspections was circulated to the committee between meetings and was approved electronically and delivered. Comments received from the Mayor's office and administration were appreciative and positive.
- **Childcare Development:** A brief update regarding the work of the Childcare Sub-committee was shared. A DRAFT report will be circulated in advance of their initial report to the committee on October 11th, 2021.
- **Sub-Committee, SWOT Analysis:** Caren Mathis, chair of the sub-committee gave a brief update regarding the anticipated work of the group.
- **Invitations:** Shirley Kelly with the EDA will attend the October 11 meeting and Patrick Bergt, Municipal Attorney will attend as his schedule permits after the mask mandate hearings at the Assembly have ended.
- **Transition Report:** The Committee continued working through the 2021 Economic Recovery Transition Team Report. The section regarding "Downtown Revitalization" was discussed. The following motions were made, seconded and approved individually:
 1. AERDAC recommends to the Mayor that his office appoint a special ad-hoc committee or task force that will communicate with those in the downtown core of Anchorage to deal with and gather information from those who lack public safety services and behavioral intervention within 90 days.
 2. AERDAC recommends that the Mayor publicly support the "Mushing District" through the means of a proclamation.

3. AERDAC recommends that the Mayor's office encourage downtown residents and employees to utilize garages with reduced prices.

- **RVSA:** The September 2021 Update of RVSA was distributed.

5) New Business: There was no new business.

6) Public Comments: Melanie Lucas-Conwell shared briefly about the 49th State Angel Fund which is a venture capital fund housed within the Municipality of Anchorage. They match private capital investments in Alaska early-stage startups to grow the innovation economy here. She also mentioned that the Alaska Techstars Startup Week is happening Nov 8-12 and might present additional opportunities for the committee.

7) Next Meeting: The next meeting of AERDAC will be on 10/11/21 at 4:00 pm.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mentzer