

Anchorage Economic Revitalization and Diversification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 10/18/21 @ 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Mike Robbins, Hugh Ashlock, Lori Brewer, Larry Cash Alan Erickson, David Hoffman, Caren Mathis, Bill Popp, Evelyn Rousso, Brandon Spoerhase, Jim Szczesniak, and Shawn Williams. Brian Mentzer, facilitator, was also present.

Committee Members Absent: Co-Chair Paul Landes, Julie Anderson and Bill Taylor

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

- 1) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by the Chairman.
- 2) Welcome Newly Appointed Member Brandon Spoerhase...** was welcomed to the committee and shared a few words of introduction.
- 3) Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the October 11th, 2021 meeting were read. A motion to approve was made and seconded, and the motion carried.
- 4) Chairman's Comments:** Mike Robbins mentioned that the DRAFT List of Initial Recommendations for Mayor Bronson had been updated and circulated to the committee for further development. The Chair shared positive comments about the progress our committee is making as well as the sentiment that it is an exciting time to be in Anchorage.
- 5) Old Business**
 - **Welcome Leadership Team from RVSA:** Bruce Bustamante, President of RVSA and the Anchorage Chamber, Michael Fredericks from SALT (contractor for RVSA), and Schawna Thoma, Vice President of Northern Compass Group and member of RVSA, each addressed our committee and gave a broad overview of the work of RVSA. Opportunities for collaborating studies, planning, and endorsement of recommendations to ensure strategic synergies and avoid the duplication of efforts between the committees were also discussed.
 - **Sub-Committee, Childcare Development:** Shawn Williams and David Hoffman thanked the committee members for sending some additional information and gave a brief report about recent updates to their initial report.
 - **Sub-Committee, SWOT Analysis:** Caren Mathis thanked the sub-committee members who had supplemented the DRAFT SWOT analysis in Google Docs. The 2018-2023 Anchorage Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was referenced as a viable resource.
 - **List of Recommendations:** As a result of a lengthy meeting, the preliminary updated rough draft of recommendations for the Mayor will be considered next Monday, October 25th.

- **Invitations:** Shirley Kelly, of Alaska EDA, has been rescheduled to next Monday, October 25th.
- 6) New Business:** The AERDAC meeting schedule for November and December 2021 was discussed. It was the consensus of the committee that meetings continue on a weekly basis on Mondays at 4:00 pm thru the first two weeks of December or 12/13. There will, however, be no meeting during Thanksgiving week on Monday, November 22nd. There will also be no meetings on December 20th and 27th for the Holidays.
- 7) Public Comments:** Melanie Lucas-Conwell shared briefly about limited venture capital for startup companies in Anchorage and encouraged the inclusion of this topic in AERDAC's planning. She also offered her assistance and participation in the process.
- 8) Next Meeting:** The next meeting of AERDAC will be on 10/18/21 at 4:00 pm.
- 9) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mentzer