

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
September 1, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tony Schiappa called the meeting to order at 5:00. p.m. The meeting was held in person and on Zoom at the Village Hall.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Chairman Tony Schiappa, Trustee Russell Smith, Bhagwan Sharma, Kirsten Jepsen, Ramzi Hassan, and Michael Simmons. Sam Odeh participated digitally by Zoom.

Absent: Mark Stangle, Debbie Hamilton, and Paul Stettin.

Also Present: Economic Development Coordinator Andrez Beltran; Matt Russian, Executive Director of Pleasant Dale Park District; John Manos, Owner of Brookhaven Marketplace; and Amy Cowell, owner of Auntie Amy's Gluten Free Kitchen.

MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Sharma to approve the Minutes from the June 2, 2021 meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved by a vote of 7-0.

PRESENTATION ON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT PROCESS AND PLAN

Mr. Beltran gave a presentation of the Downtown Business District Process and Plan. He described the process involved, in particular the legal requirements for levying a tax, and some ideas for projects that the EDC and staff have. He also gave examples of other Business Districts in the area.

Chairman Schiappa thanked Mr. Beltran. He stated that over the past year as he learned more on the Business District that he felt it was a strong solution to making the downtown what the Village and the residents would want. He then asked the members of the Committee their thoughts on it. Mr. Simmons stated that he felt it was a good idea to help boost the downtown. Mr. Hassan stated that it was a good tool that he has seen have success elsewhere. Mr. Sharma agreed as well.

Trustee Smith asked what happens to any revenue left over at the end of the Business District. Mr. Beltran stated that if there was any revenue left over, or the Business District exceeded its budget, the taxes were rebated. Ms. Jepsen asked if this money would be used to take care of neglected properties. Mr. Beltran stated that any sort of incentive to property owners would have to be approved by the EDC and Village Board. Mr. Odeh stated he thought the Business District would be a good tool for development downtown.

Chairman Schiappa asked for any comments or questions from the public. Matt Russian, Executive Director of Pleasant Dale Park District, stated that he liked the direction the Village was taking and was happy to see a park on the possibility of short-term projects. John Mannos, owner of Brookhaven Marketplace, stated that he thought it would be a good idea and liked the possibility of adding better wayfinding and signage for the downtown.

Amy Cowell, owner of Amy's Gluten Free Kitchen, stated she was new to the Village and taking over the space occupied by the former Subway restaurant. She just wanted to see what was going on as she wanted to be involved. Chairman Schiappa asked when she was planning to open. She stated in November. The Committee welcomed her to the Village.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There were no other considerations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no other public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sharma made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting to October 6, 2021 at 5:00 pm, **SECONDED** by Mr. Simmons. **APPROVED 7-0**. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andres Beltran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Andrez Beltran
Economic Development Coordinator