

**FREEPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, November 17, 2015, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Freeport Community Services
MINUTES**

The mission of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation is to partner with the community to promote sustainable economic growth that strengthens and diversifies the economic base and enhances the quality of life and unique character of Freeport.

1. The meeting convened at 6:07 pm

In attendance: Jim Cassida, Wendy Caisse, Zane Shatzer, Adam Nappi, Ed Bradley, David Latulippe, Andy Kull, Kristina Egan

Absent: Candice Rinaldi, Chip Gray, Mark Malone, Betsy Ruff, Peter Troast, Mary Davis, Peter Joseph

Guest: Bill Rixon

2. Introductory comments

Jim welcomed the board members to the evening meeting. He asked whether or not the board should re-visit the need for the evening meetings. Keith said that they had implemented 2 evening meetings a year (June and November) after some members of the public suggested that they might draw more public participation. The board agreed that it should be discussed before a FY2017 meeting schedule is approved.

3. Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of MINUTES of October 27, 2015 meeting

Wendy moved and Andy seconded approval of the minutes. The vote was unanimous of all those present and voting.

2. Acceptance of FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the period ending October 31, 2015

Andy moved and Zane seconded acceptance of the financial statement. The vote was unanimous of all those present and voting.

4. Economic Development Report

Keith updated the board on a number of projects including the Scale-up project, and the career presentations program with JMG and the school. Keith brought up the continuing conversation with the sewer district trustees, which had new members and new leadership following the November election. Keith had spoken with Lee Arris, who said that Drew Sachs and Gerry Kennedy would be continuing this effort on behalf of the trustees, and he suggested that Keith contact Drew directly to put it back on track. Keith told the board that he had spoken with Drew, and that Drew emphasized that what the trustees wanted to know our concerns, as the organization that deals most closely with the development community. Drew had suggested that much could be done, including educating the trustees on the goals of Vision 2025 and the town's comprehensive plan, but that he had also raised the question: what are the things that FEDC and the trustees could do together to address any short comings? The board thought that a presentation to the trustees on the Vision 2025 plan and the comprehensive plan (perhaps by Donna Larson or another town official) might be useful. David suggested that FEDC could also compile "best practices" and sewer district comparisons reports, which could be a helpful resource. Keith told the board that the conversation with the district would resume, and that Drew had asked about an agenda of topics for discussion at these meetings. David and Wendy reminded Keith that this question had already been raised at the first FEDC-Trustees meeting that took place in the summer. Keith said he would present a summary of that discussion for Drew, and see if he felt the same topics were still appropriate. Keith also informed the board that the FEDC website had been the victim of a hack, and it had shut down the site for a few days earlier in the month. Ben Kouba from Leaf9 (who had designed the site) had been helpful in recovering the site and getting back up-and-running. And that Ben had recommended signing up for a security service he offers, where his customers pay a quarterly amount which essentially insures and guarantees the site's safety from attacks, and in the event of an attack, Ben performs recovery services for no additional charge. The board asked for more information, and Keith said he would have more details for them at the next board meeting.

5. Discussion about options for use of money from the Fidelity Account

Keith said that at the last board meeting, the board had suggested that they should have a conversation about what programs the money in the new Bath Savings Bank savings account could be used to support. The board said that they wanted more specific proposals for discussion. Keith apologized if he had misunderstood the instructions from the last board meeting, but thought that the board wanted to have a more open-ended conversation about it.

6. Adjourn

Before adjourning, Bill Rixon asked if he could address the board on the issue of climate change. He told the board that President Obama would soon be participating in an important conference of world leaders who were meeting in Paris to discuss the issue. He shared a resolution by the Town of Falmouth which urged the President to take a strong position on reducing carbon emissions at the conference, and requested that the Chair write a letter to that effect on behalf of the council. Councilor Rixon also provided a copy of the letter that Falmouth sent to the White House. Councilor Rixon said that he intended to propose a similar resolution and letter from Freeport, indicating why climate change is an important issue for our community. David said that he believed action on climate change would have to take place at the local level, because there is too much gridlock in Washington. David moved that the board support a Town Council resolution in urging President Obama to be a leader in climate change, and a letter from the Council to the White House urging the same. Adam seconded. The vote was unanimous of all those present and voting. Councilor Rixon was grateful to the board for its support on this issue. Keith asked whether or not he should take additional action to support this resolution, either through public comment at the council meeting, or some other communication. The board recommended that a letter or e-mail to the council informing them of the board's unanimous support for action on climate change would be sufficient.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25