

**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
REGULAR STANDARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 – 3:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

A Regular Standard meeting of the Economic Development Authority was held on Thursday, November 10, 2021, at 3:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA REVIEW, AND APPROVAL**

Meeting called to order and agenda approved.

**B. ROLL CALL, ASCERTAIN QUORUM, REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Members of the Board Present:

Mr. Robert Trevorrow  
Mr. Ernest Daniels  
Mr. Kenny Shuman  
Mr. Don Adams  
Mr. Nathan Louis Berg

Members of the Board Absent:

Mr. Charlie Fugate  
Ms. Shanna Carrico

Administrative/Town Staff:

Tonya Triplett  
Tenille Montgomery  
Janice Dornon

Guests:

Cam Bell  
Cathy Lowe

**Comprising a quorum of the Board - YES**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- July 15 2021
- September 9, 2021

Minutes from July 15, 2021, were tabled until the January 12, 2022 meeting due to a lack of a voting quorum of members present at the meeting on July 15, 2021.

Motion made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Daniels to approve the minutes for September 9, 2021, were approved as presented. Mr. Shuman abstained from the vote; he was not present at the September 9, 2021 meeting.

#### **D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS REPORT**

- Mrs. Tonya Triplett announced that the Prepared Meals program will restart in November with the second round of funding. The first round of administrative draw down, \$7,500 goes to the EDA for issuing checks to the restaurateurs. Round two will be for another \$7,500 to the EDA for administrative assistance.
- Lodging and Meals Tax numbers are up to pre-pandemic levels (2019 numbers).
- The Town hosted a Travel Writer; the writer's article appeared in the Rachel Ray magazine, featuring the Girl & the Raven Restaurant. The second Travel Writer that was hosted was from CNN, in Atlanta GA. This writer's article showed up in several magazines, one in particular was Newsbreak; this article had a \$203,000 dollar value for tourism advertisement.
- Christmas events planned are the Holiday Market at the Martha, Merchant Open House, Christmas Parade, Cultural Center, and Art Depots will add events as well.
- Sports Complex opened an application process on November 1<sup>st</sup> and already have 28 weekends booked. The survey for the Pump Track received 232 responses. In an upcoming meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, they hope to see a conceptual design for the Pump Track. There will be a Giving Tree set up for sponsorships of the Sports Complex.
- The Rotary Club is doing fundraisers for the Splash Pad; the Town is to match their funding amount.
- No report has been received from Lisa Quigley about the survey and the Master Plan.
- Working on Enterprise Zones with Washington County, VA, 580 acres in total for Capital Investments and Job Creations or commercial renovations.

- Fields Penn is nearing completion for the Tourism office. Tonya & Tenille anticipate moving in by the middle of December 2021.
- The Welcome Center is open with limited hours. The center had 743 visitors.
- Mountain Bike Park, if the right parcel could be purchased and grant money was available the plans for the park could be re-visited.
- A foundation, Enhance Abingdon, has been started to receive donations for Town projects; the donations can be earmarked for a particular project.
- PACE – (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), provides services for local senior citizens. The Abingdon Senior Center is participating in this program; it offers healthcare, nutrition, and daycare for local seniors.

**E. DORA – DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA**

Citizens have until November 12<sup>th</sup> to voice their opinions. The EDA will be submitting a letter of endorsement for DORA to the Town Council and asking the Mayor to introduce it into the minutes. The Abingdon Police Department has said that they are capable of enforcing the ordinance with a fully staffed department.

**F. ZONING & SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE UPDATE**

EDA members would like to have self-storage added to the updated ordinance.

Mr. Shuman relayed that the new Director of Community Development would like to see ordinances enforceable. Mr. Shuman also commented that the fence at the Gather Inn is not correct per the HPRB guidelines; he said that all ordinances should be enforceable. He noted that Short Term Rentals should be addressed in the new ordinance, and to include what the definition of a loft is, and the stipulations of a Homestay.

**G. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**H. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The next EDA meeting will be on January 12, 2022, at 3:00, in the Arthur Campbell Room, on the first floor of the Municipal Building.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Robert Trevorrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kenny Shuman seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.



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**Nathan Berg, Chairman**



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**Janice Dornon, Secretary**