

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2023 at 9:00AM

Attendees: Angie Devanney, Brian Kraut, Chris Wang, Cheri Pertesis, Manny Cuoto, Jim Mulcahy, Bob McManus, Brian Healy, Patrick Smith

1. Discussion

- 1) Committee: new members: Ivette Fuller (resident) and Jalpesh Chokshi (Bubbakoos as restaurant owner); Levi is staying on but making meetings is tough – Brian will update him during the month; still need a Summit Health rep; Wade hasn't been active but stays in touch
- 2) Election of officer: Brian Kraut Chair; Chris Wang Secretary
- 3) Wawa: EDC – how does the committee add value; where does EDC fit within communication process of new businesses coming into town; why did information become public because they haven't even gone before TRC (this doesn't look good for other businesses considering Berkeley Heights) – this needs to be a learning experience to create better process within the town
- 4) BH video – completed
 - Still needs a few edits but it is ok to distribute; Brain reached out about a grant to pay Thoro for this (\$300) and future projects – great to have a local video company to work with
 - Brian working with Gail Nelson to tweak press release and how to target its distribution
 - Gateway Chamber of Commerce – show video to all the mayors (May/June)
- 5) Business updates:
 - Two Fields Bakery – hoping to open in April; has all the contractors lined up; project is moving along – this is an EDC win (brought this business back from the dead)
 - Kawee – sold to another owner (changing name Thaitanium)
 - Anthony (reached out via email) – looking at potential Berkeley barbershop; high end barbershop concept; he sees the potential future growth of the town
 - Goodmans – closes early now (4pm) because of lack of staffing
- 6) Parking issues in town: Cheri says someone came into the store wanting to contact the landlord to buy parking spaces – want to open office in the Terrace; parking is a recurring issue (Patria brought this up as well lat year)
- 7) Website: need to put steps of how to open a business
- 8) Wade/Nokia: in Canada, the town came up with a plan and Nokia jumped onboard; can the same thing be done at the campus here? very complicated because it spans two towns

2. Adjourned

Next Meeting: **Friday, February 24th at 9AM**

Location: **Dogwood Conference Room, BH Municipal Complex**