

Bloomington Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 05/27/2021

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Bloomington Municipal Building Council Chambers

Present:

- John Graziano
- Elisa Kolenut
- Theresa Merino
- Mike Sondermeyer
- Steven Pardalis
- Farah Sayyed
- Lisa Bendel

Absent:

- Suzanne Osborne
- Dominic Catalano
- Jennifer Ellis
- Mike Rudge
- Michele Reynolds

Meeting Discussion:

- Flag Salute

- Approval Of April Minutes

- Treasurer Report
 - Budget should be approved very soon.
 - \$300 EDC funds have been spent for the “Taste of Bloomington” restaurant initiative.

- Restaurant Initiative
 - Per John we have more than 10 completed punch cards that were submitted.
 - Farah Sayyed took over as point person from Elisa Kolenut. She will check in on restaurants to replenish stamps and cards.
 - Elisa suggested to Mike S about advertising the initiative on the Municipal Sign.
 - Facebook ad was boosted by Jen Ellis for about 2 weeks.
 - Theresa will schedule posts to repeat on the What’s Happening Bloomington Facebook page so that we can all share it to our social media.
 - The first drawing will be done on a Facebook live during our June Meeting.
 - Theresa will bring a tripod to hold a phone to film the drawing.

- Bloomington Town Pride Day – Sept. 25, 2021 – Rain Date: Sept. 26, 2021
 - Mike S. will book the DJ & Ride.
 - John will reach out to the Rec Department. He will also contact BBYC about us having food vendors.
 - Still on track to add a smaller “Touch a Truck” event – Mike Rudge to help organize this.

- Spoke about possibility of renting tables. Not sure if we have the funds. Pride day comes out of public events. We may have to ask everyone to bring his or her own tables. This will be decided.
- Jen Ellis to keep list of vendors who would like to participate and creating ad & event on Facebook to generate interest.
 - Pixie Pop was confirmed last month.
 - Need to know if Michele Reynolds spoke to Claim to Fame to see if they'd like to participate
 - Theresa to reach out to Jen Hagin about food trucks
- Legalization of Marijuana
 - The Bloomington Cannabis Regulatory Commissions recommendation for Legalized Marijuana in Bloomington has been submitted.
 - Steve will attend a meeting to represent Bloomington on Tuesday, June 1st. He will have 3 minutes to speak and ask questions.
 - Our current ultimate plan is to have 1 retail license and 1 wholesale license.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - *Jazzercise* ribbon cutting is rescheduled to June 5th @ 11:30 am.
 - *Jazzercise* to have a class demonstration in Sloan Park prior to ribbon cutting.
 - *Brothers Auto Hunt*
 - Ribbon cutting TBD. John will reach out.
 - *Sacred Ink* to open in Riverside Square.
 - We did not speak about a possible date for this.
 - *Magpie Bakery* in Riverside Square
 - Owner plans to have business open for August 2021.
 - Michele Reynolds will reach out to follow up closer to August.
- Social Media
 - Facebook ad boosted for "Taste of Bloomington" restaurant initiative.
- BANNERS
 - Elisa also spoke about Banners not being up yet. Mike said that the DPW has been short staffed due to vacations.
 - Businesses can buy a banner for \$250 to advertise their business.
 - Elisa will rework the banners to look uniform.