

Surfside Beach Business Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date 3-15-22 Time called to order 10:04

Committee members attending

Sammy Truett	John Hutton
Phil Vassar	John Gilcrest
Lee Zulanch	Kevin FitzMaurice
Robin Partin	Rod Schilling

Town Council: Cindy Keating LaVerne Kreklau

Was a quorum present? yes no

Motion to: Accept minutes

By John Gilcrest Second Sammy Truett

In favor All Against

Pending Recommendations to Council

None at this time / under discussion

In the past we have struggled with support from the Town. The committee is committed to restarting the relationship with the town.

Lee Zulanch proposed the Committee and the Town move to take over the Celebrate Surfside Festival

John Gilcrest does not support creating festivals, but rather talk more to the businesses in the Town, find their needs and address them.

Cindy Keating reminded us about the Business Hour at N&P is March 22, 4 to 7 pm. We need to register at the Chamber's website.

Phil Vassar wants to create some structure for the social networking event. Sammy Truett stated there was information about the committee and giving contact information. Robin Partin related her difficulty in hearing the presentation. Rod Shilling asked about name tags or a sign-up sheet. SAMMY TRUETT related issues with Pizza Hyena because of the inside/outside bar. He proposed committee members have a different color tag or some other identifying mark. LZ recommended also a short speech at the

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meeting. The Chamber is notifying members, Cindy Keating volunteered to help contacting the brick-and-mortar businesses in town. She would also like to invite business owners to the Committee meetings. The Town mailing would be sent out as blind carbon copies, since this would give a level of security for you contact info. The Committee has recently had issues with getting business contact info from Town. Zach Baker suggested to CINDY KEATING the business committee members donate door prizes to the Social Hour. CINDY KEATING said that there is an effort to try to bring more cooperation and more consistent responses from the Town.

SAMMY TRUETT P&Z is going thru the Town's Comprehensive Plan. There should be room for the BZ Com to assist P&Z in creating business opportunities, and improving the 17 Business corridor. Consultants are scheduled to help create the plan for the Town and the Committee can be of assistance. John Gilcrest wanted to know if the Pier Committee had contacted Sammy Truett about businesses on the Pier.

Sammy Truett asked "How do we improve 17 Business corridor?" This had been discussed for years. RS wanted to know how to do something for the 70 empty buildings, and how to make businesses conform to a standard. Should the committee contact the owners about the deficiencies and let landlords know about the Town Façade Grant? How do we motivate out of state landlords to voluntarily improve their properties? JOHN GILCREST asked if there is an ordinance for buildings to conform. Cindy Keating stated there are standard in Chapter 17 of the ordinances and the County Overlay applies. The new staff in P&Z is supposed to be contacting owners about the upgrades that need to be addressed. SAMMY TRUETT asked if the recommendations are being addressed by council. CINDY KEATING Sabrina Morris is in charge of reviewing and enforcing the recommendations and ordinances, ensuring that they don't conflict with other regulations. PHIL VASSAR asked why the P&Z committee isn't involved with ordinances. CINDY KEATING agreed that that should be a committee objective. What can Surfside do that would make a business more successful? RP says her impression is the Town is very hard to start a business, and gave an example of a business having a code issue with approvals granted and removed. PHIL VASSAR asked can this committee have an opportunity to review some of these regulations before they're enacted? KF we were reviewing the Ordinances / Overlay and County Overlay when the Town removed us from the process and the process stopped and SAMMY TRUETT should be able to bring any changes to us for our input. CINDY KEATING used the Entertainment District as an example of an issue that needs to be reviewed, especially concerning the parking inequality. SAMMY TRUETT disagrees that the Town is allowing one individual in departments to make decisions about application of the rules, and the lack of guidance in the past. He supports the need for out of code situations have to be addressed, but if the process doesn't improve, the problem will remain. Cindy Keating wants to be the conduit for changes recommended by the Committee. SK feels we need a better understanding of the process, and need to be able to address the issues the process creates. CINDY KEATING states the Town Administrator is working on improving processes, and fighting past perceptions. She was trying to get permitting checklist, and discovered that one existed, but was being ignored. RS said he got a checklist when he opened his business, but still encountered an issue with getting information in a timely fashion. PHIL VASSAR appreciates the efforts to change attitudes in the department in Permitting, but stressed that without a positive attitude at the top of the chain, the attitudes will never change. He used the

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changes in the past few years in the Public Safety Department and recommended that they be used as an example of what can be done. RS asks that we should be able to get a list of approved or licensed contractors. Cindy Keating states that building codes are a level playing field, but we need to address attitude, response time and customer service. There has been an inconsistency in enforcement of ordinances. CINDY KEATING asked what do we want to fix? SAMMY TRUETT wants to invite building inspectors to our meeting to let us know what they are looking for, what issues they see consistently, and how to address it. RP wants to see all inspectors that businesses need to deal with, used the Fire Department as an example, stated that the new Fire Inspector is an improvement. CINDY KEATING reminded us that we have CRS Flood Regulations to deal with in Town Building regulations.

SAMMY TRUETT stated the Town has done several things to entice businesses to move to Surfside Beach with our declining tax rate to match the County regulations and the Façade Grant to help businesses improve their appearance.

Notes of Interest:

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

Submitted by Kevin FitzMaurice

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