

**Business Development Commission (BDC)
MEETING MINUTES**

APPROVED

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 23, 2019
 LOCATION: City Hall
 CALLED TO ORDER: 8:05 AM
 MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:56 AM
 NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 22, 2019, 2019

Name	Present	Absent
Jon Spiesman (Citizen at Large), Chair	X	
Mike Pincus (Citizen at Large)	X	
Pam Neihaus, Vice Chair (Citizen at Large)	X	
Jennifer Starkey (Business Owner Rep.)	X	
Rebecca Now (Chamber of Commerce)	X	
Tim Delanty (Old Webster)	X	
Amanda Clark	X	
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Frank Janoski, Council Liaison		X
Joan Jadali, City Manager Designee		X
Mara Perry, Staff Liaison	X	

Also in Attendance
 Fran Sudekum – Administrative Support

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Tim Delanty, seconded by Rebecca Now and unanimously approved.

NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

- Amanda Clark, The Novel Neighbor in the Old Orchard Business District, is newly appointed to the Business Development Commission.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS DISTRICTS

- Old Webster – Working on new banners, new employee parking lot, and summer events; there will be a new hair salon at Sunrise Senior Living; Story Seven and Chase Bank are new businesses for the district; Regents’ Bank permits are under review, Brew Pub et al. is pursuing historic tax credits.
- Old Orchard – Working on acquiring easements for the streetscape project, the U. City Jazz Fes has moved to Old Orchard in Gazebo Park; Blue Dahlia Design and Guerrilla Street Food are new businesses for the district.
- Crossroads – Did not get the federal grant for their streetscape project and are looking at their options; Lark has expanded into the space next to them; Alan Nehring has acquired another building in the district; EverLove DayClub has moved out of the district to a different WG location on Watson Road.
- Yorkshire Plaza – Simmons Bank has taken over Reliance Bank.
- Ridge House apartment project’s drawings have been approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Based on previous discussion, Mike Pincus revamped the “vacancy” letter to business owners and refocused it into a letter to the property owners. All in attendance thought it was a good first attempt. A paper copy was not available at the meeting; Mike will email an electronic version to Mara Perry to send out to members.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mara shared information about the Home Occupation Ordinance the City has been working on; it may go before the June 4th City Council meeting. Members are invited to provide input to City Council.
- Members were asked what type of information they would like to see:
 - Rebecca Now was interested in acquiring information about the St. Louis County Municipal League; their best practices and sharing information among City Planners of the various muni’s.
 - Pam Neihaus was interested in what other muni’s are doing to take advantage of their sections of Historic Highway 66.
 - Jennifer Starkey would like to see more social media feedback and plans.
- Members shared happenings in their circles:
 - Jennifer; Webster University student swap, career clothing closet, and Open House on May 27th.
 - Rebecca; Webster Groves et al. Chamber is having an Ice Cream Social outreach event at The Edge of Webster on the Owen Ridge Campus on June 27th.

NEXT MEETING

August 22, 2019 at 8:00 AM at City Hall.