

Rockland Economic Development Corporation

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JULY 29th 2009 – 5:00 P.M. HILTON PEARL RIVER

Present:

Harriet D. Cornell *
Rafael Espaillat
William F. Helmer
Judith Hershaft
Jack F. Holt
Thom Kleiner *
Arlene Lapidos
William Longhi

Kerrin Mahaffey (for
Michael P. McDermott
Donald T. McNelis
Clement Osei
Mark D. Rothenberg
Robert E. Seaman, III
Serge Seguin
Burt Steinberg **

Sr. Kathleen Sullivan
Janice J. Teal
James B. Tully
Quinton C. Van Wynen
Cliff L. Wood
Steven M. Yassky

Absent:

Karim A. Abood **
Karyl Caplan
Vincent L. DeLucia
Eric Dranoff *
Michael J. Fisch
Sandra D. Grannum
Jonathan Kupperman

Paula Mandell
John A. Maraia, Jr. *
Bruce W. Mason
Hector A. May
Malcolm G. McLaren
Michael P. McDermott
A.Jon Prusmack

Charles Radier *
David Samberg
Alan Yassky **
Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef *
Jeffrey M. Zupan

Guests:

Miyoko Yamakawa, Pisces Beverage Corp.

Staff:

Liz Cranston, Pauline Drakopoulos, Ronald Hicks, Liz Kallen, Jayne Nichols, Karen Rehm, Steve Porath

* Denotes Ex-Officio Directors

** Denotes Director Emeritus

- ▶ **Motion:** A Motion to approve the May 27th 2009 Minutes.
Motion by Jack Holt and seconded by Bill Helmer: Motion passed unanimously.
- ▶ **Motion:** A Motion to approve the Financial Report.
Motion by Don McNelis and seconded by Mark Rothenberg: Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Quinton Van Wynen presented the financials for the months of May and June. He reported that REDC is in a strong position with an excess of \$31,000. Ron Hicks and REDC staff should be congratulated for this. The Audit Report reviewed at the last meeting was in good order and adopted by the Executive Committee.

President's Report – Ronald Hicks thanked the Maloney family for the use of the room at the Hilton Pearl River. He reported that REDC submitted the 2010 budget request to the County with a 2% reduction and stated that REDC is grateful to the County Executive and the Rockland County Legislature for all their support, pointing out that we are trying to do our part to help out. Hicks stated the Empire Zone Program continues to be a valuable attraction and retention tool and the Revolving Loan Fund has funded 9 loans so far this year, totaling \$65,000 with several loans pending. Liz Kallen is now holding office hours in Orange and Westchester Counties and a laptop with built-in WiFi and wireless broadband access has been purchased to assist Liz Kallen in her outreach efforts.

Hicks reminded the Board that the Forty Under 40 reception will be held on October 22 at the IBM Palisades Executive Conference Center and that REDC is grateful to Provident Bank for agreeing to sponsor it this year. Additionally, the Annual Economic Development Awards Luncheon is being held on November 6, again at the IBM Center.

Committee Reports

Executive Report - Steven Yassky reported that a nomination form for the Awards Luncheon will be distributed to the Board of Directors.

Board Development Report - James Tully reported that there was no new business, but that the Committee will be meeting to recommend the slate for 2010.

Business Development Report - Ronald Hicks reported on behalf of Sandra Grannum that the next Business Development Committee Meeting would be held on August 4th and that the Committee is accepting suggestions for a luncheon speaker.

Public Policy Report – Robert Seaman reported that the Committee is concentrating efforts to provide a united front, which includes the RBA and will be making trips to Albany to get our message out.

Tactical Resource Group – Jack Holt reported that the Committee is assisting Orange and Rockland and Verizon with regard to a substation on Verizon's property that is critical to the company's \$30 million expansion. Holt also reported that the Committee would be meeting with United Water to discuss their plans for a desalination plant in Haverstraw.

New Business

Legislature Chairwoman Harriet Cornell shared good news that Dr. Wood has been elected President of the New York Community College Association of Presidents. Cornell reported that the County government finances are not in good shape and early retirement has again been offered to county employees, that the Payroll tax could not be more onerous and that she has written to the Governor and has not received a reply. She also expressed concern for Good Samaritan Hospital which is experiencing certain issues that need to be closely watched.

Pisces Beverage Corp. – Steve Porath introduced Pisces Beverage's Miyoko Yamakawa who described her business, her product and expressed thanks to the REDC Board for the small business assistance she has received.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.