

BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2019

16 January 2019 / 10:00 AM / City Manager's Conference Room

ATTENDEES

Marilyn Schlossbach, Russell Lewis, Jenn Hampton, Kathy Kelly, Regine Flimlin, Bianca Freda, Larry Dembrun, Amy Quinn, Jacki Sharpe, Adam Nelson, Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi, Sonia Spina

GUESTS: Chris Zaturski, Nina Summerlin - Speaker

ABSENT: Isaac Jones, Austin Leopold

AGENDA

December minutes approved.

1. Nina Summerlin from Asbury Park ALIVE talked about sponsorship opportunities for the community event coming up on May 4, 2019. The event will take place from 1-4 pm with the streets blocked off along Springwood, Lake, and Ocean Ave up to Convention Hall. The days events will include:
 - Skateboarding lessons
 - Cooking demos
 - Bike repair lessons
 - Healthy living and eating presentations
 - Arts & Crafts
 - Other physical activities

The Committee is looking for volunteers, donations; both monetary and in-kind. Please see the attached documents for more information. They are also asking that members of the business committee to help promote the event. *Sonia sending/sent info to the committee.

2. Information was provided to the committee regarding NJ-EDA and the **NJ Ignite and the NJ Incubator & Collaborative Workspace Rent Initiative.**

The program offers grants that supports rent of early state technology and life science companies in New Jersey collaborative workspaces. EDA's grants will cover rent payments for 2,4, or 6 months that are in a collaborative workspace. Co-works is one of the approved workspaces.
*Sonia sending/sent info to the committee.

3. Discussion on goals for 2019 - (Speakers and ideas for making AP more business friendly).

SPEAKER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Laraina Durant, CPA (discuss change in IRS regarding business tax deductions)
- NJ Transit
- Mike Manzella, Parking and Transportation update
- Tom Donovan, President of SONY
- Interfaith Workforce Development
- Monmouth County Tourism / NJ State Tourism
- AP High School Representative re: school/work program
- LGBTQ Chamber representative

MAKING AP MORE BUSINESS FRIENDLY:

- Revisit of previous discussion regarding the City joining databases with the Chamber. Sylvia reported that it was a breach of the privacy act to share her database.
- Response to last months discussion about poor quality holiday decorations in the downtown. Sonia reported that there was not enough power to have a full display.
- Discussion to create a subcommittee for the holidays. It was shared that not enough emphasis is put on retail and it gets lost in all the other activities going on in town. This new subcommittee will focus on a "Come Shop" Retail Campaign. Bianca Freda and Kathy Kelly will head the committee. Adam Nelson will collaborate with them as well.
- Have Score volunteers give a presentation at City Council meeting to explain what they do and how they can help new and existing businesses.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections; Bianca Freda and Kathy Kelly volunteered to be Co-Chairs. Phyllis Maffucci agreed to be Secretary for another year.
- Question regarding the ban on plastic - Gov. Murphy did not pass into law. However, Monmouth County is still active with the initiative. It was suggested that Asbury Park continue to move forward, taking the lead on the initiative. Amy is going to speak with Senator Vin Gopal and get more info on the status of the bill.

NOTES:

- Sonia announced that there needs to be some updates/changes made to the Business Brochure. Once they are complete she will send to the committee and make copies to be placed in City Hall for the public.
- The City is working on a new website that will be more user friendly and is anticipated to launch sometime in April.
- The Chamber has monthly breakfasts with guests speakers that is free to all and open to the public. Committee members should sign-up for Chamber emails or keep their eye on the chamber website for dates and speakers.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Report from Bianca and Kathy on the new retail subcommittee in February.
2. Committee: Help promote the Asbury Park ALIVE Event coming up on May 4th
3. Sonia will be setting up the speaker schedule and send to the committee.

PUBLIC PORTION

- Discussion on process to join a committee. Members should reach out to people who they think would be good on a committee.

Meeting Adjourned @ 11:06 am

Next Meeting Date February 20, 2019 @ 10 am