

Elmira Downtown Development

2018 Annual Meeting – Minutes

January 19, 2018

Meeting held at Clemens Center

PRESENT: Board members- Chris Karam, Adam Bunce, Chris Coletta, Denise Allen, Mitch Pearce, Janis Witchey, Donna Tangorre, Brent Stermer, Michael Collins, Jenn Miller, Pam Brayton. Staff-Jennifer Herrick, Maria Tinker

CALL TO ORDER: President Chris Karam called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES: The motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting was made by Michael Mitchell , seconded by Donna Tangorre. Approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS: Proposed changes to the By-Laws were passed. The annual meeting will now be held in January. The number of members of the board of directors has been increased from 13 to 15. New members to the board were voted on adding Kylene Kiah, Wine & Design; Michael Mitchell, Copy Express/Riverside Suites and Jennifer Swain, Elmira College.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE: Chris Karam and Jennifer Herrick awarded community members for their participation in making Elmira a better place to live in. Paul Kingsbury was recognized for over 30 years as a business in Downtown Elmira. Community Bank, Denise Allen, Debbie Sullivan and [REDACTED] were recognized for their years of support in making the Holiday Parade a huge success.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chris Coletta reported that 2017 was another successful year for EDD. The annual assessment for 2017 was 134M. Operationally EDD was very close to the goal of breaking even. Wisner Market generated a profit of \$2500 which made up for the loss from ESPF. AA5 music series was very successful with 8 events and close to breakeven. Full financials will be available on the annual report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chris Karam congratulated Jennifer Herrick for being a perfect fit as director of EDD and to the number of events which she plans and executes each year with a modest staff. Chris acknowledged the engaged, dedicated and productive group of the EDD Board of Directors. Special thanks went to STEG President Mike Krusen, Mayor Dan Mandell, Janis Witchey and Empower FCU, and everyone who came out tonight to support EDD and AA5 Winter Celebration.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: "Thank you for attending the 28th Annual Meeting of Elmira Downtown Development, Inc. and the first Annual Alive After Five Winter Celebration..... I am going to keep this short – if you know me – I like to talk and I like to talk about Elmira. It's all about PEOPLE. Cities are built by people, and thrive because of People. For the last 10 years, Elmira Downtown Development, Inc. has been steady, confident and visionary in our efforts to be a strong partner in redeveloping our downtown district. This organization is fast-moving, (and I really mean fast moving,

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take a moment to look at our event calendar, 30 events from March to November), with a staff of 2, a small budget (as Chris mentioned) and an army of Volunteers. EDD is a forward-thinking non-profit business organization that is the driving force of getting people downtown - look at tonight – Mention, Alive After Five, Wisner Market, Street Painting Festival and Jazz Festival

In Partnership with the City of Elmira, STEG, the Chamber, the County and so many more partners – Elmira is starting to be positively impacted – by incredible developments and new businesses opening.

2016 was a defining year in our city's history as we became the first winner of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative – these projects are starting to move - the vision of a high density, mixed-use neighborhood on the Chemung River is on the road of being realized, and seen as a centerpiece for the revitalization for the City of Elmira. None of this would be possible without vision, leadership, investment, and partnerships. It's the PEOPLE. I would like to thank our property owners, and our new developers for them taking the chance and coming to Elmira. Elmira is being rediscovered. Ultimately, our goal is to create a thriving center city that is a “go to” destination for businesses looking to start and grow, our businesses that are here – many which have been here for over 100 years. And the next generation workforce to make Elmira their home and of course, more Special events to bring people downtown – Whew I am going to be tired. And at the intersection of this goal, you'll find over 300 businesses in the downtown district, a supportive Board of Directors, civic leaders and community partners. It's the People. To the individuals that are working tirelessly – you know who you are – Jenn Miller, Mike Krusen, Kamala Keeley, Dan Mandell, Mike Collins. Thank you for contributing your passion and skills to advance progress towards our vision of an economically healthy and vital Downtown. As we continue to build a great city, our focus will remain on the marketing the downtown district, including branding the downtown district, continuing to build our already successful special events, and strengthening are current partnerships and of course building new partnerships – all that will have the most IMPACT on our core priorities of creating energized public spaces, growing the economic base of Downtown and of course, having people living downtown which have a huge impact.

And of course, I have to thank the community – you make my job a little easier by attending all of the EDD's events – thank you for your continued support. And thank you to all our members, sponsor and partners for your continued support and we look forward to working and collaborating with you in the year ahead.”

ADJOURNMENT: Chris Karam adjourned the meeting portion of the evening at 5:30. The Alive After 5 Winter Celebration followed until 9PM both indoors and outdoors at the Clemens Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Tinker