



## Economic Development Department

### Monthly Update Report – March 2021

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#### **ACTIVITY**

- **Attending Bi-Weekly Regional Economic Developers Meeting for COVID-19 Response**  
I have been attending weekly meetings with Economic Development staff throughout the region including Chatham County, Orange County, Chapel Hill, UNC, Downtown Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, and Chamber staff. Our discussions recently have focused on the ARPA and how to encourage stimulus spending within Orange County.
- **Attending CBA Marketing, Policy, and Leadership meetings**  
I am currently attending CBA Marketing Committee, Policy Committee, and Leadership Council meetings to both understand the role of the CBA and to network with these business owners and find ways the Department can get plugged in. The 203 Project and Downtown Parking have been the center of on-going concerns and discussions with the CBA and their respective committees.
- **Working with Two New Businesses**  
I have been working with two potential new businesses on getting started. I am currently working through some business viability work with one and working through the revolving loan process with the other. Both present great opportunities and will meet some of the categorical restaurant demand we have here.
- **Acquiring new Parking Leases begun; Anticipated Completion by end of Q1**  
I am in the process of acquiring new parking leases in downtown Carrboro. Primarily I am working with Fitch Lumber and 300 East Main to acquire a total of 132-180 additional parking spaces in Downtown.
- **Project Submission to TJCOG Sandbox Challenge; Project Submission Chosen**  
The Economic Development Department submitted a project to the TJCOG Sandbox Challenge call. The submission challenge was determining how to amend policies and incentivize new, inclusive forms of start-up businesses, such as food trucks, pop-up retail markets, pods or micro-retail, and other forms of “missing middle” commercial. Staff found out that the submission was chosen for a concentrated review and study by TJCOG on March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **BIPOC Business Update**  
A Spanish-language, BIPOC Business Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce and El Centro. The roundtable was held to gain a better understanding of the needs of the Latinx business community.

## **PROJECTS**

- **Minority Business Roundtable – Implementation**

Current Status: Online portion of the Resource Center is under development. Initial meetings with community leaders have been occurring. A Spanish-language Roundtable is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Next Steps: Development of a resource center (both online and physical locations).

Projected Completion: On-going. We anticipate these activities to continue and become a part of the economic development workflow process. The resource center projected completion is early April.

- **Project Arrange**

We have received feedback that Project Arrange was very appreciate of the Town Manager's offer. The company has paused this project until they can reassess their needs post-COVID-19.

- **Economic Development Strategic Plan – Identifying Strategic Issues and Strategy**

Current Status: Currently working with the ESC to solidify strategic issues and identify strategies for each issue. Joint development and input in occurring with the Comprehensive Plan Taskforce. In order to ensure consistency, staff anticipate working with Teska's identified goals and strategies to further the ESC's work in developing a strategic plan.

Next Steps: Continue to work with the ESC and Teska to identify strategies for each strategic issue at their March meeting.

Projected Completion: June 2020