



Economic Development Department

Monthly Update Report – May 2021

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 – a truck and food cart. One will be a retail truck selling products out of a small mobile unit. The second is a food cart concept that would sell limited food selection out of a mobile cart. Working with Planning Staff, we have determined that both of these establishments would be required to locate on private property, but could operate under existing regulations within the Town limits.

- **Acquiring new Parking Leases begun; Anticipated Completion by end of Q3**

I am in the process of acquiring new parking leases in downtown Carrboro. The 300 E. Main lease will be presented to Council at their meeting June 1 and the Fitch Lumber lease will be reviewed after more certainty on redevelopment potential has been determined.

- **Presented at the Chamber's Local Economic Development Forum**

I made a presentation of Carrboro's economic development initiatives and activities along with my colleagues in Chapel Hill and UNC at the Chamber's Local Economic Development Forum on May 27th. I primarily focused on providing updates for Lloyd Farm, South Green, 201 N. Greensboro (CVS Lot), and Shelton Station.

- **BIPOC Business Update**

Another BIPOC Business Roundtable was held on May 27th. General actions that the Town could take were similar to other discussions. There was, however, the idea of creating a new position or working regionally with the Chamber and Chapel Hill to create a new position specifically to assist and support BIPOC businesses as they start-up and grow.

PROJECTS

- **Minority Business Roundtable – Implementation**

Current Status: Online portion of the Resource Center is completed and out for comment from the SBTDC and Durham Tech Small Business Center. I anticipate this webpage will be live within the next few weeks. Initial meetings with community leaders have been occurring.

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

Projected Completion: On-going. We anticipate these activities to continue and become a part of the economic development workflow process.

- **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 – Developing an Action Plan**

Current Status: The ESC has reviewed and accepted the draft goals and strategies that the Comprehensive Plan Taskforce and Teska have created. Over the summer break staff will begin to review and develop action plans for each strategy in preparation for approval by the ESC.

Next Steps: Developing an action plan for ESC goals and strategies.

Projected Completion: October 2021