

Tompkins County IDA Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2011
Scott Heyman (Old Jail) Conference Room
Ithaca, NY

Present: Dan Cogan, Jeff Furman, Nathan Shinagawa (via speaker phone), Will Burbank, Larry Baum, Jim Dennis, Ed Marx

Excused: Martha Robertson

Staff Present: Ina Arthur (recording), Heather Filiberto

Guests Present: Dan Mitchell (Ithaca Beer), Brendan Callahan (WHCU), Liz Lawler (Ithaca Journal), Philly DeSarno (City of Ithaca)

CALL TO ORDER Mr. Cogan called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Callahan commented that the Ithaca Beer Company project should be approved.

BUSINESS

The Ithaca Beer Company Final Approval

Mr. Mitchell addressed the board and outlined more details as to the parcels of land that will be affected in the project. He owns approximately 82 acres of land (Parcel A on map). Just over 10 acres of that land will be sold to the Ithaca Beer Company for the project (Parcel D). In order to have access to Route 13 and Route 13A (Parcel C) a land swap is being made with Ferrara Realty (Parcel B). The access roads to Routes 13 and 13A are private roads. Traffic from the facility will be directed to exit onto Route 13A if at all possible. However, larger delivery trucks will need to utilize Route 13.

Mr. Furman again asked about diversity in the company's hiring practices. He raises this issue because tax payers are paying to have the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County work to increase the diversity in the work force. The current workforce of Ithaca Beer is not diverse. Creating and implementing a diversity plan would not add to the costs of the project.

Mr. Mitchell agreed with Mr. Furman. To that fact, he has met with Julia Mattick of the Workforce Investment Board to discuss developing a diversity plan. He will be posting job notices on the sites suggested by Ms. Mattick in order to increase his application pool. He will also try his best to implement this plan.

Mr. Furman asked to have a time line for this. Mr. Mitchell said he would be fine with having a plan in place by the end of October. Mr. Dennis suggested that Mr. Mitchell work to develop the plan and perhaps take a longer time to do this – perhaps three months.

The Company will continue to work with the Workforce Investment Board on developing and implementing a hiring diversity plan. The Company will aim to have this in place by the end of November. The Company will report back to the IDA Board.

Mr. Shinagawa thanked Mr. Furman for discussing this issue.

Mr. Cogan mentioned an article in the Ithaca Times regarding the project. He asked for clarification. Mr. Mitchell stated that concerns were raised at the Town of Ithaca Board meeting when the PDZ was approved. These were centered around misunderstandings as to what property taxes would be abated. Ms. Filiberto commented that at that meeting the Board did not understand that only new taxes on the new building would be abated for a limited time period.

Mr. Mitchell commented that other concerns about the project had to do with lighting and noise issues as well as the fact that Mr. Mitchell did not tell the Town Board he was working with the TCIDA.

Jim Dennis moved to approve the inducement resolution for The Ithaca Beer Company Project. Larry Baum seconded the motion. The company’s pledge to develop and implement a diversity plan for hiring will be included in the resolution language. The motion passed (Yea - Cogan, Baum, Furman, Burbank, Dennis; Absent – Robertson; Abstain due to open meeting law – Shinagawa)

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

None.

MINUTES

Jeff Furman moved to approve the board minutes from the July 20, 2011 meeting. Will Burbank seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM