

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP-August 26,2014

Attendees: Denise Griffin, Bill Hamblen, Wendy Wolf, Russ Hoffman, Jay D. Warren, Thomas Woodin, Steve Ham, Steve Lewis, Chuck Cunningham, Dale Harmon and Jim Chaousis.

Bullet points discussed:

Norms

- One conversation at a time
- Be polite
- Silence cell phones
- Everyone participate
- Non judgmental
- Stay on topic

Purpose

Determine where there is common ground for the two towns to work together

- Not many differences between towns
- ED is useful to both
- More useable land in Boothbay
- Use geographic differences into strengths
- How can we share different things in addition to fire departments?
- People think BB and BBH are one town
- We should share in reaping rewards towards the greater good
- ID assets and help businesses thrive
- Address things that need improvement
- Share in grants---need regional support to win grants

What is Economic Development vs. Planning

Economic Development is:

“Economic development creates the conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services.”

- Better quality of life (live, work and play)
- Economic self sufficiency, higher income

- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Roads
- Education
- Water/sewer

Job growth and training
Housing---needs to be more affordable
BBH has limited land available

Huge retirement community
Huge tourist community
How to balance year round vs. seasonal
Capitalize on retiree's knowledge and experience

Planning strategy is:

Measure for public policy
Plan and then launch
Comprehensive
Plan and project Plan/zoning alignment between towns
Codes need to be enforceable
Engage the community and create excitement
Adopt new comp plans
Attract new businesses
Put infrastructure in place (water/sewer, high speed data, transportation etc.)
Plan and project to bring in business and make it easier to expand
Collaborate on parks and recreation
Sidewalk, greenery and bike routes
Access to vital services
Refresh Community Development Block Grant (micro/facade grant)
Historic preservation
Joint consistent signage strategy
ID current businesses with growth potential

Evaluate sources of help