



**ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.
INCENTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 18, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

VIA Zoom Meeting

Committee Attendees: Dan Mallon, LaVonne Torrence Berner, Ken Sonner, Laurie Boyer Babb, Alton Henley, Susan Prince, Ben Anstrom

Absent: None

Staff: Richelle Wilson, Martha Jimenez

- I. Welcome and Introduction - Call to Order 10:05 AM
- II. Discussion Items
 - a. **Introduction**
 - b. **Operational Items:**
 - i. Approval of Minutes:
 1. **ACTION: Mrs. Babb motioned a vote to accept the January 19th, 2023, minutes which was seconded by Mr. Sonner and passed unanimously by the committee.**
 - ii. Mr. Mallon introduced two new committee members: Mrs. LaVonne Torrence Berner and Mr. Ben Anstrom.
- III. **Updates on Grants**
 - i. Ms. Wilson presented to the Committee that Mayor and Council want REDI to focus on retail and find ways to support them through the grants program. She mentioned that the Committee should consider adding retail to the MOVE/Expansion program. Mrs. Babb said that the City should make sure to market the addition of retail as just a City program as the County still does not support retail in its incentive programs. Mr. Mallon mentioned that REDI should create separate funds, programming, and metrics for retail applicants. Ms. Prince said that the change in this program would benefit businesses like those in the Shop Local incubator.
 1. **ACTION: Mr. Mallon motioned a vote to allow retail space users to apply to the MOVE and Expansion program. Ms. Prince seconded, and it was passed unanimously.**
 - ii. Ms. Wilson brought up the topic of allowing franchisees to apply to all grant programs. Ms. Wilson wanted the committee to discuss what types of franchises would be accepted and what parameters should be established. Ms. Wilson mentioned that the local businesses that have become franchises should be considered for REDI's grant programs. Mrs. Babb said that REDI should add language stating that franchises will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- iii. **ACTION: Mr. Mallon motioned to vote on allowing franchises to apply for REDI's grant programs. Ms. Prince seconded, and it was passed unanimously.**

Next Meeting: TBD