



Economic Sustainability Commission

*301 West Main Street
Carrboro, North Carolina 27510
Minutes from February 10, 2016*

The following members were present: Beven Ramsey, Dan Mayer, Bob Saunders, Terri Turner, Leo Gaev, Matt Neal and Board Liaisons Randee Haven O'Donnell and Sammy Slade.

The following staff member was present; Annette Stone, ECD Director

Guest present – Emma Dunbar, Younes Sabouh, Robert Hash, Shelia Reedy, Bill Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Beven Ramsey. There was a motion made by Terri Turner and seconded by Bob Saunders to approve the January 6, 2016 Special Called Meeting minutes.

The first item on the agenda was an application from Eden Food Group, represented by Emma Dunbar and Younes Sabouh, for a loan in the amount of \$100,000, to fund a new restaurant venture located in Carr Mill Mall. The applicant has entered into a lease for the space formerly known as Café Symmetry. The new restaurant will be called Tandem and will serve contemporary American cuisine in a service orientated high energy environment. They have \$200,000 of their own cash that will go into the project.

Staff reported that the application indicates the Ms. Dunbar does have \$36,239 in equity in a home in Carrboro. In addition, the loan guidelines allow for up to \$20,000 in unsecured loans. The ESC could loan up to \$56,239 on the project.

Questions and comments from the ESC included, how was this restaurant going to be different from previous restaurants in this location; what is the price point; when would they be opening; interest in being an Orange County Living Wage employer; sourcing locally; and there was a concern about the applicants operating cash.

The ESC recommended the applicant also apply for funds from Orange County and directed staff to discuss joint funding options with Orange County. In addition, the applicant should consult with the SBTDC to review their business plan and projected expenses and return to the ESC in March.

At this time the Chair welcomed guest who were present as potential members of the ESC, Robert Hash, Shelia Reedy and Bill Thompson all introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their interest in the ESC.



The next item on the agenda was a proposal for a text amendment to allow a use, “social service providers with dining services” to the table of permissible uses. Staff stated that three of the Board members had attended the joint review to hear the presentation on this proposed text amendment. The Planning staff’s notes from the Board of Aldermen meeting were made available to the ESC members. Several questions were asked that the ECD staff was unable to answer. The ESC chair requested that the Planning staff be asked to come to a meeting on Wednesday, February 24th at 7:30 p.m. to answer questions regarding the proposal.

The remaining agenda items were tabled for future discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.