

Economic Sustainability Commission Minutes October 25th, 2007, 7:30 PM

Chairman: Peter Lee

Present, Peter Lee, James Harris, Stan Babiss, Dan Coleman, Alena Callimanis, Ellie Kinnaird, Jefferson Parker

Excused, Ruffin Slater, Alex Zaffron, Bill Soeters, Nathan Milian

Call to Order by Peter Lee @ 7:30 pm

Guest: Linda Parham, Director, Downtown Development Corp.

Agenda items: (1) Valet Parking in Chapel Hill; Real Change from Spare Change; (2) Shoppes at Jones Ferry Update; (3) Northern Transition Area Update

Presentation by Liz Parham, Director, DDC: Valet Parking and Real Change from Spare Change

Liz presented an overview of valet parking in Chapel Hill. The program is 3 years old and is free to patrons of downtown Chapel Hill businesses, i.e., restaurants. Patrons drive to a designated spot and valets park their car for participating businesses.

ESC Recommendation:

The ESC will follow up on valet parking as soon as a study from the transportation planner is concluded.

Real Change from Spare Change is a community-wide, collaborative initiative designed to educate, encourage and empower Chapel Hill and Carrboro citizens, and the UNC community to evoke real change for those in need. She stated that there is a better way to help panhandlers and giving spare change is just a band-aid approach that feeds substance abuse habits. Real Change is committed to raising funds to support the street outreach work that is currently being done in Orange County and educate the community on the issues of homelessness and panhandling. One of the goals is to raise 70k annually for community education; to teach people that knowing the facts, giving money and time will make a real change.

ESC Recommendation:

A motion was made to recommend the program to the Board of Aldermen for endorsement.

Motion made by Jefferson Parker and seconded by Stan Babiss.

7 ayes (all in favor)

Shoppes on Jones Ferry Update: Dan Coleman:

Dan gave update only.

Northern Transition Area Update: Alena Callimanis:

Final report due in December

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm