**BDC Meeting Minutes**

**January Re-org meeting**

**1/12/2023 7pm**

Roll Call Attendance:

**Present**: Andrew Schallenhammer, Scott Levy, Mario DiNatale, Joseph Perno, Stella Sytnik, Harry Platt, Neal Cupersmith, Nadine Grinbergs

**Absent**: Mike Cherkas, Emily Morgan

The first order of the meeting was to elect a chairperson and vice-chair.

Joe Perno nominated Andrew Schallenhammer for chair, Scott Levy seconded, all ayes.

Scott Levy nominated Emily Morgan for 1st vice-chair, Stella Sytnik seconded, all ayes.

Scott Levy nominated Stella Sytnik for 2nd vice-chair, it was seconded, all ayes.

Everybody was sworn in as board members.

Chairman Schallenhammer stated that our meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month.

Mario explained that Harry and the committee have already passed a resolution to hand out business of the month awards. Once a business is selected then Dee can do a proclamation and there will be pictures and social media postings.

The board discussed re-vamping the Shop Voorhees program. We need to think of incentives to make residents want to use it, and incentives to get businesses to want to participate. Do we re-do the logo? Do we add new & improved? Do we offer businesses 6 months free to join? Harry suggested to go to the most popular places in town and offer the free 6 months and see if it increases their business. We need to come up with ideas to make it worth their while. Maybe use the Shop Voorhees card like a debit card. Possibly offer a free meal if you accumulate points on the card.

We have 366 businesses in town, 18 merchants that are registered in Shop Voorhees, and 8 active ones.

We need better marketing; Mario will look into how much we can spend for advertising and maybe we could advertise in the Sun.

Please send Andy any ideas.

We are officially changing the name of the board back to Voorhees Economic Development Committee. Joe Perno motioned, Stella Sytnik seconded, all ayes. We will contact Dee to update he website.

Chairman Schallenhammer asked if there any questions or anything further to discuss, with there being none, the meeting was adjourned.

Our next meeting will be held next Thursday, February 2nd at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Rieders,

BDC Secretary