**Economic Development Committee Meeting Notes**

Date: June 30, 2016

Time: 10am

Place: 210 North Grove Street, East Orange, NJ

Attendees: Keely Freeman and Wayne Smith

Notes:

The meeting began at 10:30am and ended at 12pm.

1. Introductions
	1. The meeting started with introductions. Keely Freeman introduced herself as Executive Director of Sierra House. Wayne Smith introduced himself as former Mayor of Irvington and current employee of BCB Community Bank.
2. Elections
	1. Due to the small turnout elections did not take place, however Keely took notes.
3. Discuss topics/issues/concerns
	1. Some of the topics/issues/concerns discussed were as follows:
		1. East Orange residents are faced with few jobs and a lack of access to higher paying wages.
		2. There is an inactive train station that we would like to make active again.
		3. Residents are in need of more job training programs.
		4. The business community needs to be revitalized. There is also a need to attract small businesses.
		5. It may be helpful to create a merchant association or special improvement district.
		6. A survey needs to be created and the residents need to be polled to access the community needs. For example, what type of stores would they want, how often do they eat out, how much do they spend on dinning, etc.
		7. How to attract major investors to the area.
4. What are the committee goals, expected outcomes, etc.
	1. The committee would like to assist in building a stronger business district, creating more jobs, and promoting economic development programs that could better help the community.
5. What do we need to know from the community i.e. residents, stakeholders, businesses, government, etc.
	1. Possible survey questions include what type of stores would they want, how often do they eat out, how much do they spend on dinning, etc.

1. Create 2-3 Community Forums to determine issues we should address
	1. The committee would like to host 2 to 3 community forums, but first believe it is important to attract more steering committee members
2. Ways to advertise
	1. The committee came up with several ways to advertise which includes but is not limited to newspapers, public access channels, billboards, social media, and email.