

BUSINESS OUTREACH MEETING FOCUSING ON CANAL STREET

May 6, 2019

The second in a series industry sector/area specific workshops sponsored by the City of New Smyrna Beach and the Southeast Chamber of Commerce was held on May 6, 2019 at the Live Oak Center. The purpose of the meetings is to provide business owners with information on available resources for business planning. This workshop focused on Canal Street with approximately 40 attendees many of whom were Canal Street Merchants.

Mayor Owen welcomed the attendees and advised that this was a session for bringing up problems, solutions and what the City can do to help keep small business in the core of the City. Attendees from the Chamber were Linda Embrey, Membership Director and Rich Hawes, Economic Development Chair. Tony Otte, Economic Development Director for the city was also present.

The featured speaker was Richard England, Executive Director of the HUB on Canal Street. He gave a history of the creation of the HUB, how the HUB was a part of the revitalization of Canal Street after the recession and the continued growth of outreach programs by the HUB in providing art and music classes to various groups and citizens in New Smyrna Beach.

A Survey was provided to each attendee asking for input to six questions to better help the City in development of programs to enhance the ability of Small Business to thrive in New Smyrna Beach:

1. Why did you choose New Smyrna Beach?
2. How can the City and Chamber have a positive impact?
3. Any plans to expand in the next 5 years?
4. What are your biggest opportunities/challenges/pain point?
5. Any thought of leaving in the next 5 years? If so, why?
6. If you could change one thing about New Smyrna Beach.....

In addition to the survey attendees were provided with a list of Business Resources including information from SCORE, Daytona State College Small Business Center and other groups formed to help in starting a small business. An Economic Overview Packet for the City of New Smyrna Beach dated April 24, 2019 was provided that included information regarding Demographic Profile, Employment and Wage Trends and other city information helpful in starting and operating a small business in the city.

Input from attendees included some complaints of difficulty getting information from one place; not enough help from City and Utilities Commission; the upside and problems of special events that closed streets and caused parking issues. Solutions were also suggested such as providing a Small Business Desk for the City and better communication between the City and the UC.

Future Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, June 27: Beachside area (Flagler, Third, A1A)

Wednesday, July 1: US 1

Thursday, August 22: SR 44

Thursday, September 26: Airport, Manufacturing, Technology

Wednesday, October 23: Start-ups and Small Business