

From: Lois Laczko September 14, 2011 2:38:37 PM
Subject: Economic Development Commission Minutes 08/11/2011
To: SimsburyCT_EconMin
Cc:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - NO QUORUM
AUGUST 11, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Deming, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development to order on Thursday, August 11th at 7:42 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were present: Mark Deming, Derek Peterson and Timothy Ellsworth. Also in attendance were Mary Glassman, First Selectman, Hiram Peck, Director of Planning, Leslie Faraci, Clerk and other interested parties.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 14, 2011

Commissioner Deming noted that in an absence of a quorum, the Commission will be unable to vote on any issues, so approval of minutes will need to be dealt with next meeting.

III. REPORT: FVVA

FVVA - Nancy Anstey, Executive Director of the Farmington Valley Visitors Association, said that the 2nd Annual Film Festival was wonderful and the only real issue with it is the fact that it conflicted with Talcott Mountain Music Festival. Ms. Anstey has begun discussions in order to correct that problem for next year. Ms. Anstey said they will be instituting their Youth Film Contest and will be emailing all of the area schools in order to get increased submissions. She noted this will be the third attempt and that it takes time to raise awareness on this type of contest. Ms. Anstey also noted that the Dream Ride will be held on the last weekend in August. Then they go right into SeptemberFest. At this point they are also planning for the Haunted Miniature Golf, which will be held the week before and the week of Halloween. The last update Ms. Anstey wanted to make everyone aware of was that there had been a meeting of Central Region Tourism District August 10th regarding the future of tourism and what will be allowed and not allowed moving forward. Ms. Anstey said at this point, with the Governor's budget, Regional Tourism in CT has been eliminated. If everything continues to go forward as they are now, the only recourse available will be a public hearings of the legislature. She said, as far as she has heard, the \$15MM for State Tourism is still in the budget, but Regional Tourism, which was only \$1.5MM, is not. Ms. Anstey

said they have been talking about the possibility of exploring avenues to do it themselves as a 501(c)(3), a non-profit.

Commissioner Deming asked Ms. Anstey asked about the level of activity with regards to overall tourism and she said it is slow, although calls and requests are coming in, but again, slowly. Commissioner Deming then asked about the Visitor Center and he was told they have no home-base and potential options for a home-base were discussed.

Commissioner Peterson then asked about drawing movie projects to the area and also about how they are drawing interest in the Youth Film Contest. Ms. Anstey said in terms of the Youth Contest, they have to go through the teachers in order to generate involvement. Also, she said there had been an inquiry from a filmmaker in CA who was interested in coming to the Farmington Valley for his film. That particular one did not work out due to not meeting tax credit criteria, but there have been multiple inquiries in the last year.

IV. SIMSBURY SHOWCASE - UPDATE: MEDIA & INVITATIONS

Commissioner Deming mentioned that the Save the Date went out the week prior and the hard copy invitation will go out later this month. He said they hope to have 40-60 attendees at the event. Commissioner Peterson updated the Commission that there had been a quote on the distribution flyer for the Showcase of about \$600, which they went back to the printer and asked they lower their quote to \$500 in order to stretch their dollars for event.

V. WPCA: STATUS OF NEW POLICY INITIATIVES

Hiram Peck, Director of Planning, said that he had presented the sub-committee (3 members) his preliminary report regarding rate absorption. Mr. Peck said they asked Rick Sawitzke and Jim Clifton to provide information on putting together a potential model on how looking at how Town Center and PAD Development would effect their bottom line. Mr. Peck said the next meeting will be August 23rd, 2011. Mr. Peck said he thinks Mr. Sawitzke will have the requested information ready at that meeting. Mary Glassman, First Selectmen, said they are waiting for the results of that August 23rd meeting before taking any further action. Commissioner Peterson then asked Mr. Peck if the applications coming in trend towards multi-family as opposed to large single family homes and Mr. Peck confirmed that yes that is the case.

VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Deming asked Mr. Peck about the status of Dorset Crossing. Mr. Peck said the Owner was in last week to talk about the first building that they want to start. Mr. Peck said they wanted to talk to them about the possibility of altering the alignment of the road they are planning to

build through their site and to adjacent/surrounding properties.

Mr. Peck then moved onto the topic of the Route 10 Study. Mr. Peck said the Joint Land Use Committee Meeting was recently held and that the consultant did a great presentation and answered people's questions. Mr. Peck said the entire study is on the CRCOG website and urged the Commission to take a careful, close look at it so they are prepared with feedback/comments when it goes to the Board of Selectmen for endorsement. Ms. Glassman then said there have been 13 public hearings since the study started in December. She said it is important to get feedback from the EDC in order to help prepare the Town for future development. Mr. Peck then said the last Steering Committee Meeting will be August 24th. Mr. Peck did ask the Commission to take a look at the contents of the Report Appendix and give any thoughts to items that might be better served if moved back into the Main Report. Mr. Peck did note that if the report would ever be submitted to DOT for potential funding on anything, it might be more impactful if something is the Main Report as opposed to the Appendix.

Mr. Peck told the Commission the Low Impact Development Storm Water Study is underway, Jon Ford from Morris Beacon (Providence, RI) will send a draft report mid-next week. As soon as that comes in, there will be a meeting to discuss the report (tentatively scheduled for August 31st) lead by the Conservation Commission. The full and final report needs to be completed by September 30th.

Mr. Peck then addressed the Commission regarding the Design Guidelines. Mr. Peck mentioned that the Board of Selectmen approved the contract (\$49,000 approved and ready to go). Mr. Peck said he will make a public plea for an additional \$4,000 to reach the total amount of the contract which is slightly over \$52,000. He said it would be a nine (9) month process to complete which will start very soon (next week or so).

Mr. Peck also let the Commission know that they had finished the first cut revision of the Blight Ordinance, which is important now due to the larger amount of foreclosures. Mr. Peck said the revised Blight Ordinance will be covered at either the first or second meeting of the Board of Selectmen in September. Mr. Peck said it is improved on its readability and enforceability.

Ms. Glassman said, with regards to the Simsbury Showcase, there are a lot of approved sites that are ready to go and asked if the Commission would like to have those sites plotted on a map in order to display them at the event.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Deming adjourned the meeting at 8:33AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Deming, Chairman