

From: Lois Laczko December 13, 2011 11:07:04 AM
Subject: Economic Development Commission Minutes 11/10/2011 Adopted
To: SimsburyCT_EconMin
Cc:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Deming, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order on Thursday, November 10th, 2011 at 7:35 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were present: Mark Deming, Derek Peterson, Kevin Crimmins, Andrew Markowski, and Timothy Ellsworth. Also in attendance were Ferg Jansen, liaison to the Planning Commission, Leslie Faraci, Commission Clerk and other interested parties.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

Commissioner Markowski moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peterson and passed unanimously.

III. REPORTS: SMSP, FVVA & "SIMSBURY SHOWCASE" EVENT

SMSP - Melissa Brett, Welden Hardware, was present in Sarah Nielsen's absence, Executive Director of Simsbury Main Street Partnership. Ms. Brett said she has spoken with local business owners regarding their experience with the Halloween Storm and the impact on their business. It was discussed, in future similar situations, how businesses could alert the public know that they were open for business, in the absence of internet and phone service. The loss of inventory for local restaurants was discussed in addition to the loss of revenue for those businesses providing non-essential services. Ms. Brett said she thought it would be helpful for the Commission members to contact local business owners in order to follow up in the wake of the storm and get their feedback. The potential reimbursement from cable/phone providers was discussed between Ms. Brett and the Commission members. It was decided the Commission members could split up the list of the SMSP's members and contact a sampling of businesses to follow up after the storm.

FVVA - Nancy Anstey, Executive Director of the Farmington Valley Visitors

Association, presented the Commission with an update. Ms. Anstey passed out the new Visitor's Guides to the Commission members. Ms. Anstey stated the storm has effected the FVVA in form of cancelled meetings. Ms. Anstey said they are planning an event for Feb 26, 2012, an Oscar Night. With regards to the Film Commission, Ms. Anstey said they have had several request for hotels and hospital rooms, in which to film, from two (2) companies in Los Angeles, CA. She told the Commission they missed four (4) days of the Halloween Mini-Golf event, from the storm. Ms. Anstey said she was able to provide a lot of assistance, in terms of directing people to which businesses were open, during the power outage period.

"SHOWCASE SIMSBURY" EVENT

Commissioner Deming reported that there were approximately 20 attendees at the Showcase Simsbury Event. He said that Hirem Peck and Mary Glassman spoke and that the event was about an hour in duration. Commissioner Deming said that while they would have liked to have more people, given the current state of the development market, he thinks they got the word out as best they could.

IV. DISCUSSION WITH WPCA POLICY INITIATIVES FOR THE PAD & TCZ

Commissioner Deming stated that he was present at the last WPCA Sub-Committee Meeting. He stated that they agreeded to deliver the scope of work to the consultant they have hired. Commissioner Deming said the consultant should take approximately 30 days to crunch the numbers and then present those numbers back to the sub-committee. Mr. Peck expressed his disappointment that the scope, mentioned by Commissioner Deming, was not yet available for review. Mr. Peck said he has heard from a number of developers that this issue could have a significant impact of their moving forward due to the potential cost factor (specifically with the FCC). Commissioner Deming mentioned that he had received an update on the Dorset Crossing project and that this FCC issue would be of significant importance to them moving forward. Commissioner Deming spoke of the potential tax revenue to the Town (upwards of \$1MM from two potential development projects) that is at stake and could hinge on the outcome of the sub-committee's policy decision. Commissioner Ellsworth expressed his frustration with the situation and with the fact that the WPCA does not seem to understand how important this issue is to the Town of Simsbury. He wondered how they could raise the visibility of the issue to the public or increase pressure on the WPCA to create some urgency. Commissioner Deming said he would contact them and request to see the scope of services the WPCA sub-committee says has been created. Commissioner Ellsworth asked how he could be notified of the sub-committee meetings, and Mr. Peck said they have been hard to pin down due to cancelations and late notification. Commissioner Peterson said he sees a disconnection of interests, that the WPCA is looking to see how they can pay down their debt service and not at the welfare of the Town. Commissioner Deming said they can continue to keep

pressure on by increased correspondence and meeting attendance.

V. APPROVAL OF EDC'S 2012 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the Regular Meeting Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Markowski and passed unanimously.

VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Deming stated that Commissioner Dornberg has resigned from the Economic Development Commission effective November 1, 2011. Commissioner Peterson expressed how, in his opinion, Mr. Dornberg is very knowledgeable on the financial workings of the Town and that he could be very useful in some capacity, possibly on a consulting basis.

Commissioner Markowski brought up the potential negative impact the extended power outage could have from outside businesses' perception of the Town when considering Simsbury as a possible location. Commissioner Cummings said he would push back on that strongly, as this storm was a fluke. It was also discussed that the replacement wires are more substantial than the previous lines.

Mr. Peck said the consultants, on the Town Center Design Guidelines, will be in town and conducting focus groups on December 6th. On December 7th, Mr. Peck said, he is trying to set up a de-briefing for the Land Use Commissions prior to the consultants leaving town.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Markowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 a.m. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Peterson and was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Deming, Chairman