

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

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Members present: Randy Vidal, Fred Hyatt, Christopher Pia, James Benson and Mary Dean

Alternates Present: Robin Greenspan

Others present: Karen Kaiser and Amy Knorr (Economic Development), Mayor John Harkins (arrived 5:20 p.m.)

[Note: Michael Vickerelli participated in the meeting by phone, but did not vote.]

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice-Chairwoman Dean called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2014

- MS. GREENSPAN MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. PIA, TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES.

- Per Mr. Hyatt's request, the Update from the Economic Development Director (Item 3) was corrected to indicate that the Vice-President of CT Innovations of Rocky Hill took a tour of the Brownfields in Stratford.

- MINUTES AS AMENDED WERE APPROVED 6-0.

3. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SAEP (Army Engine Plant) - Everything is status quo since the last meeting.

GBRC – (1) Stantec was hired as the consultant for the Transit-Oriented Development Feasibility Study. They are coming on Thursday to update the Town on improvements and parking. They will also help with obtaining Grant money. (2) The GBRC is conducting a traffic study on Main Street near Sikorsky to ease the traffic burden in the area. The Town Council has already approved the match for the study. (3) The GBRC has received Grant money for a GIF System for the region. This will put all the municipal tax records into one system available to commercial brokers. The system will have hundreds of demographics. There will be a broker training session the end of March.

Mayor's Golf Tournament – Fundraising has begun. A separate 501(c)(3) has been set up instead of relying on the Stratford Community Fund.

RDA – The Lease with Good Earth was approved by the Council on February 10 (Contract Plating property). The Town is currently negotiating with a potential buyer over 993 Honeyspot Road. Also, the Town is applying for Grant money for the Mercer Towers property.

St Vincent's Medical Center – Demolition is complete and construction has begun.

375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Ms. Knorr attended a meeting this afternoon. Everything is moving along. Fundraising has begun. Businesses will get year-long advertising and they can also sponsor an individual event.

Exxon Mobil – Owner will start showing the property in the Spring.

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Paradise Green- Mr. Vickerelli reported that an upscale bicycle shop is a possible tenant for Paradise Green.

- Mayor Harkins updated the Commission on his meetings with the EPA. The Boston Office has been slow to respond so he went to Washington D.C. and met with the Assistant Director of the EPA, who, in turn, contacted Boston on behalf of Stratford. There is only about \$20 million available to clean up the Stratford sites. Stratford needs to spend this down and then apply for more funding. Stratford is trying to get the EPA to spend down on sites that have already been identified. The Government wants to hear about local priorities. East Broadway is a big one. The new FEMA maps now identify it as being in a flood zone. Other problem sites are the Ballfield and the Public Works Dump. When Main Street is moved for the Airport, the EPA will remove some of the waste there. In addition to Raymark waste, some of the sites have chemicals.

3. NEW BUSINESS – none

4. OLD BUSINESS

EDC Planning Retreat

- Retreat will take place March 11 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Knapp's Landing.

Artwork Under Bridge – no business

Bike Tour – Mr. Vickerelli phoned in his report. He has been working on the maps and has spoken to TopTees about shirts with logos for the event. He has also contacted various bicycle shops in Florida for their input as biking events are routine there.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Commission, on motion by Mr. Pia and seconded by Mr. Benson the meeting adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili  
Recording Secretary