

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2015**

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Members present: Fred Hyatt, Randy Vidal, Mary Dean, Christopher Pia, John Dobos, James Benson, and Brian Oliver

Others present: Karen Kaiser and Amy Knorr (Economic Development), Councilmen Jason Santi, Joshua James, and Aubrey Booska and Michelle Genuario (Share a Chair 2015).

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2015

- MR. PIA MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. BENSON, TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. SHARE A CHAIR PRESENTATION

- Aubrey Booska and Michelle Genuario are Co-Chairs of the Stratford Street Sculpture Advisory Council which will be sponsoring a Street Sculpture event from June 3 through August consisting of an exhibit of 20 wooden benches painted and embellished by local artists. The benches will be auctioned off in October and the proceeds will be used for student scholarships at Bunnell and Stratford High and grant programs. The benches will be on display on Main Street up to Paradise Green. They have gotten sponsors for most of the benches. The benches cost \$2,000 each.

- Mr. Vidal introduced Joshua James of Atherton Associates in Shelton. Joshua was born and raised in Stratford and has recently moved back. He is interested in getting involved with the Town.

4. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Exist 33 Interchange - This project has received \$24 million in funding and is scheduled to begin in 2017.

Contract Plating (540 Longbrook Avenue) – The demolition of the buildings should be finished by July. There is already interest from developers, including one from California.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) –There will be a public hearing on the draft TOD zoning regulations on March 31. The State Office of Policy and Management has awarded Stratford a \$200,000 Planning Grant to further develop transportation choices around the Train Station.

Mercer Towers - Demolition Bids have come back. Also, the \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant was approved by the Council on March 9.

Point Stratford Renewal – Should be a decision on the cleanup of the tidal flats area by the end of March. It is expected that the deed will be transferred to Point Stratford Renewal by October. Local businesses have sent letters of intent, including Two Roads Brewery.

Stratford Land Development - Has received a tax abatement for one of its new buildings. It is now going through the various approvals.

60 Beach Drive (old Allen's East Restaurant) - Contamination was found on the site. The developer needs to speak with the owner, who is not available now.

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- 1350 Barnum Avenue – Next to Cutrufello's. This has been sold and is going through zoning. A retail business is going on that site.
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- 1717 Barnum Avenue – Old Budget Rental. This has been sold and the buyer wants to build a small retail center.
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- Nouvo Pasta (130 Honeyspot Road Ext.) – Grand opening is March 17.
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- Johnnie's Restaurant – This property was bought by a developer from California. He started to do work without a permit and was shut down. A new buyer is now interested in the property.
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- Popeye's Chicken – Planning to build a drive-thru in the Stop and Shop parking lot. This is going to zoning.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- MR. BENSON MOVED TO USE \$2,000 FROM THE COMMISSION'S \$20,000 BUDGET TO SPONSOR THE FLOWERED BENCH IN THE UPCOMING SHARE A CHAIR EVENT. MR. PIA SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

6. OLD BUSINESS - none

7. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:57P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili
Secretary