

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of April 27, 2022

Commissioners Present: Ani Chaghatzbanian, Chairman; Peter Cozzolino, Simon McDonald, Paige Miglio, Julie Nash, Michael Crowley,

Advisors present: Julie Nash

Also present: Cassandra Schull, Makayla Silva

Absent: Paige Miglio, Michael Moses

CALL TO ORDER” 12:03pm

I. Introductory Comments – Julie Nash/Ani Chaghatzbanian

- i. Approval of minutes: Lynch, approve, Crowley 2nd.
- ii. Lots of great new things coming, booze cruise
- iii. New projects for EDC
- iv. No public available for comment

II. Tourism Update:

MPI update: Pete

III. Julie introduce Jim Donegan for tourism marina update

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE - Nash

- Thank you all for being on the board, summary of why we do what we do, your support is important and part of the process, we appreciate it.
- Economic Activity Report: 3.6, last month 4.3 for unemployment
 - This week large decrease as well
 - Numbers lagging in new business starts, same as last month
 - 2022 numbers not yet in, 2021 beat 2022 for business starts
 - New business: Kate Burton Salon & Spa; Renee and Associates; Je T’aime Cup; Giggling Pig (May 6th ribbon cutting);

Gains and Loss

- Hospitality hardest hit, gains outweighed the losses for the first time in a long time this month, on the right trajectory
- Housing permits are down compared to last year, continue to outpace other CT Towns
- CT Tourism Travel on the upswing, new numbers increase every month, 113%

Upcoming Events

- Influencer Event was great at Tribus Brewery, 60+ attendees
- Entrepreneur and Startup Event May 16th at Milford Point Brewery 6-9pm
- Job Fair Upcoming
- DMBA Fashion Show May 2nd
- ARPA – real estate audit underway; post-covid economic plan RFQ coming; housing plan is done and on agenda for Alderman May meeting
- Strega opening a high-end Italian meat/cheese market next door in the old popcorn store.
- Workforce development, send me anyone with jobs – I have a lot of great resources to help/assist

- Digital workforce development in the state, Certificate program
- Genesis is opening in the old Friendly's/Howard Johnson location
- Metro Star Has RFI/RFQ for Biotech
- Miglio asked about small business grants with ARPA Funding. Nash replied that it's currently indefinitely paused. There's an ARPA plan and new project management team starting in the City, new plan is being submitted and made public on Friday.

V. DMBA Update: N/A at this time

VI. MPI Update: Peter – meeting 10:30am on Wednesdays before EDC, hoping for additional update in 30days with long term update, it's not active, need a board. We moved files from Advisra to make files more accessible.

VII. TOURISM: Paige Miglio – Pantochino opening up this weekend for the next 3 weekends, Eastbound through MA is going a play called Fireflies in June; Eisenhower Park July 16th & 17th shows, and additional plans in the works. The MAC is 50 years with new celebration switched to Lisman Landing. The MAC is looking for sponsors, Trinity Point newest lead sponsor at \$10,000. Event will have a few bands and scholarships, awards, dancing, auction items, etc. Pantochino and the MAC wishing audiences will come back. Walnut beach is moving ahead with concerts Walnut Wednesdays, farmers markets, and their series. Downtown farmers markets returning, Fairy Frolick happening.

VIII. DECD Benches – First two benches have been installed, with a total of 5 benches/public art projects to reimagine the park bench as a social gathering and arts experience. Mini ribbon cutting next Tuesday at Lisman landing walk and reception.

IX. Chamber Update – Michael Moses

- We recently acquired the West Haven Chamber, (150 members). Email list with 633 contacts added to their list. 10 new registered users per day. Working towards some unique events for West Haven. Orange is still independent.
- New satellite location downtown opening for T/R
- New Job fair with 16 businesses who will be there. At center court at the Mall.
- Multi Chamber event May 17th happening at Chapa Winery.
- Regional Best OF Contest starting May 16th, 40 under 40 running concurrently with Epic helping run/support, will have an Awards event in July at Dockside, nominations starting soon.
- Fridays after 5pm May 27th concert series starts, Salsa band for the first one.

X. Standing Items & Status Reports

A. Organization Reports - ALL

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Lynch made motion to adjourn at 1:03pm, motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING, 4TH WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022 WILL BE IN PERSON AT PARSONS GOVERNMENT CENTER.