

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES April 22, 2009

Present:

Commissioners: Genevieve Salvatore, Chair,
Susan Ashelford, Tessa Marquis, Susan Patrick, and
Cyrus Settineri
Advisors: Kathleen Alagno and Robert Gregory
Guest: Tom Cariglio, UI
Press: Frank Juliano, CT Post

- I. Chair Salvatore called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. A roll call indicated the members present as indicated above.
- II. The minutes of the meetings of March 25, 2009 and April 8, 2009 were accepted as presented.
- III. Committee Reports

A. Neighborhood Preservation – Blighted Buildings

Ms. Patrick reported that the subcommittee had met with the Chairman of the Board of Aldermen, Ben Blake. He supplied the Committee with information about the previous efforts to create an ordinance. The decision was made to utilize existing ordinances to address the problem. She has also acquired a number of other ordinances from other communities. Enforcement and a complaint process were listed as key to any efforts to address the problem. The Committee will refine a proposal and bring it back to the EDC for action.

B. Manufacturing Outreach Project

Ms. Marquis said that she had developed a list of about 150 manufacturers and was researching the companies to determine the nature of their business. Ms. Salvatore volunteered an intern to assist in the operation. She was also developing a questionnaire to be used by the person conducting the visit to ensure similar information is obtained.

C. Kimball Report

Mr. Settineri said the Committee appointed by the Board of Aldermen is hard at work. He will continue to follow their actions and report back when recommendations become available.

D. Shop Local Campaign

Ms. Ashelford said that she is brainstorming ideas. One thought was a poster giving the advantages of shopping local. Discussion was held on how to develop a positive “Shop Milford” campaign.

Discussion was held regarding the tourism aspects of Milford and the possibility of a tourism committee. A decision was made to have a representative from the Milford Oyster Festival at the May meeting and Ginnie Koslowski from the Greater New Haven CVB at the June meeting.

E. Strategic Plan

Chair Salvatore said that she is compiling strategic plans from other communities. Ms. Alagno talked about “economic development gardening”. She also talked about partnering with the University of New Haven to develop entrepreneur workshops. SCORE was mentioned as another possible resource.

IV. Old Business

There was no old business

V. New Business

Mr. Gregory reported on the story of Milford Fabricating rising from the ashes to be back in business already at the former Bic property. He said that the City was participating in a NAIOP Developer’s Showcase tomorrow at the former Bic property.

Mr. Cariglio said that UI was willing to participate in the plant visits and bring energy conservation ideas and alternative energy sources to businesses. Discussion was held regarding suppliers of energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory