

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of June 26, 2019

Present

Commissioners: Michael Crowley, Chairman; Greg Harla, Vice Chairman; Michael Lynch; Jessica Stram; Albert Franke; Ani Chaghatzbanian

Advisors: Julie Nash; Paige Miglio; Pamela Staneski

Also present: Maria Small, Seaside & Beachside Nutrition

Absent: John DePalma

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 24, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Lynch and Mr. Harla made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2019 meeting. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chairman Crowley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms Staneski reported on email she received complementing City support for businesses downtown.

VI. BUSINESS MEET & GREET

Ms Small, of Seaside & Beachside Nutrition, discussed her background in corporate finance. She has 2 smoothie and tea bars on Naugatuck Avenue and Melba Street and noted Milford's support for businesses. They also sell supplements, offer fitness classes and wellness coaching to help educate public on nutrition and healthy food options. Discussion on ingredients.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reported on new business starts and labor data. She applied for \$4 million grant for dredging Milford harbor and spoke about workforce development bill. She commented on recent press conference at Tribus with Governor Lamont to sign a bill streamlining beer production at breweries in Connecticut. She reported on several businesses looking to come into Milford; discussion on vacancies downtown and organizing meeting with landlords. She also announced upcoming events: CT Beer Tours every other Saturday, fireworks on June 29th and networking event for businesses, developers and CT Port Authority at Lisman Landing on July 26th 1-5pm.

VIII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN UPDATE – None

B. TOURISM

Ms Miglio reported on NYC Getaway day, Milford bus tour for hotels and commented on Make Music Day activities at the MAC and Firehouse Gallery. She spoke about applying for grant to fund a public art project; creating art trail guiding people from Milford harbor to duck pond and places in between with benches along the trail. They will need matching funds and put together committee to finalize the plan. She also reported on Rambling Inn

pop-up bar on Thursdays, serving whiskey and beer with 15% of proceeds donated to nonprofits. She reported on smooth jazz scholars having their most successful year and Jay wanting to get more involved in tourism. Ms Miglio asked about traffic on Milford tourism website; Director Nash said the website developer is running the analytics and will report back.

C. CHAMBER

Ms Staneski stated the Chamber is in the process of collecting photos and content for the new Chamber directory; they are selling members ads and expect September roll out date. The Chamber was open for Pirates Day, they are participating in Make Music Day and partnering with DMBA events. She announced summer concert on July 12th and golf tournament July 15th.

Ms Staneski reported 26 new Chamber members since January and they are working with DMBA, MPI, MAC and EDC to support businesses and the community. She spoke about partnerships with businesses downtown, Walnut Beach, Woodmont and Devon so when people visit from out of town the Chamber can guide them to those areas. She also noted a request by restaurants to meet with hospitality groups to promote tourism and mentioned visitors in downtown commenting on empty shops.

D. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

E. VISITATION REPORTS – None

IX. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION

A. SPEAKER SERIES

Chairman Crowley spoke about working with Chamber and EPIC group to organize young entrepreneur event in September. Ms Staneski requested a meeting to discuss topics, guest speakers and panel discussions with experts on variety of topics; she suggested Subway conference center for larger group meetings.

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE – None

C. CCM 2019 MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Chairman Crowley stated that to move forward with application, they have to identify what City projects will be used. Discussion on requirements.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Ms Miglio asked about permanent land use and open space for public art with menu of options to bring to developers; Director Nash stated Mayor Blake is considering the idea.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

July meeting will be canceled.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder