

**DOWNTOWN RIVER-HIGH STREET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2016**

I. Call to Order

The Downtown River-High Street Development Commission held its Regular Meeting on Friday, November 18, 2016 at the Parsons Government Center, 70 West River Street, Conference Room B, Milford, CT. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Peter Smith, Chairman
John Knuff, Vice-Chairman
Joseph Agro, Jr.
Richard F. Jagoe, Jr.
Raymond Vitali

Also Present

Henry Jadach, Transit District
Toni Weeks, Law Department

Absent

Bryan Anderson

II. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Smith reported the minutes for October 14, 2016 were not distributed and would be approved at the November meeting.

III. Approval of the 2017 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Agro and Mr. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Chairman's Report/Introductory Comments

Chairman Smith reported that the feedback from the kick-off meeting and site tour had been positive. He started the consultants are continuing to run economic models. Feedback from the consultants is they expected the rents and demographics to be higher. Chairman Smith stated the consultant pulls data from various sources such a credit cards, transaccational date which gives a demographic picture. He also stated he had an opportunity to speak with the Tom Maziarz, Head of Planning at the State DOT concerning the initial phase DOT grant and that Tom expressed interest in working together on this project. Mr. Knuff stated he believe BL Companies has a good working relationship with DOT.

Henry Jadach stated the Transit District has a 50 years lease on the property with approximately 38 years remaining which consists of 4 parking lots and 2 train stations. He stated that DOT must sign off on anything improvements the Transit District wants to make. Transit works with DOT Real Property Agents in New Haven . Chairman Smith asked Mr. Jadach if DOT sets the parking rates. Mr. Jadach stated the Transit District sets the pricing. He also noted that Julie Nash has had the best success with DOT in getting signs and pictures on the overpasses.

Chairman Smith stated he will keep in contact with Mr. Mazizrz from DOT. Mr. Jadach suggested Mr. Maziarz or his staff be invited to meetings.

V. Public Comment

Deann Jacobs, 14 Darina Place. Ms. Jacobs stated AARP has information concerning livable communities and walkable communities. She further stated she has put a worksheet together based on the site tour meeting with the consultant. Ms. Jacobs also commented on the article in the Milford Mirror. She further stated that the neighbors would like to see Darina Place as a one way street that does not allow “big rigs” to travel. Ms. Jacobs also discussed what the neighbors would like to see constructed on the parcels.

Mr. Vitali and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to authorized Julie Nash, in conjunction with the City Attorney’s Office, to revise the BL Companies contract in accordance with the requirements of OPM. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Grant Extension Update

Chairman Smith stated Julie Nash is continuing to work with OPM. He stated that the November 7th deadline was not meet and the billing on the grant must be closed out and moved to a new billing period. He stated this is not a major issue and is basically just an accounting step. Mr. Agro asked about the parking study. Chairman Smith stated OPM still does not like the parking aspect although DOT says it’s necessary. Mr. Smith indicated OPM is paying for the first portion of the work and all additional work will be under the new billing.

VII. Next Steps

NONE

Being no further business, Mr. Agro and Mr. Jagoe made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary