

**DOWNTOWN RIVER-HIGH STREET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 9, 2017**

I. Call to Order

The Downtown River-High Street Development Commission held its Regular Meeting on Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Parsons Government Center, 70 West River Street, Conference Room B, Milford, CT. Vice Chairman Knuff called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Peter Smith, Chairman
Mr. Knuff Knuff, Vice-Chairman
Ald. Raymond Vitali
David Fernandez
Raymond Vitali

Also Present

Julie Nash, Community Development
Kathleen Kennedy, Law Department
Henry Jadach, Transit District
David Sulkis, Planning & Zoning
Joseph Griffith, Director DPLU

Excused: Peter Smith, Bryan Anderson, Richard F. Jagoe, Jr., Amanda Root, Joseph Agro, Jr.

II. Chairman's Report/Introductory Comments

III. Discussion Public Workshop – June 14, 2017

Geoffrey Fitzgerald, PE, BL Companies and Mr. Myrick Myrick, AICP, Director of Planning Services, MIG Company were present via teleconference.

Mr. Knuff asked Mr. Myrick if he would be the lead on the work at the June 14th workshop.

Mr. Myrick replied yes, along with his colleague, Marissa.

Mr. Knuff - a facilitator at each table.

Mr. Myrick - yes, there would staff be moving around the tables.

Mr. Knuff asked how many facilitators would be present.

Mr. Myrick stated members from the steering committee along with himself, Mr. Fitzgerald, Marissa, Julie, but he may have lost a few.

Mr. Knuff asked if there would be a different activity happening at each table or the same thing.

Mr. Myrick stated the exercises would be the same at all the tables.

Mr. Knuff asked how many activities there would be in total.

Mr. Myrick stated there would be two activities each lasting about 30 minutes.

Mr. Knuff asked about the color photographs provided to the committee.

Mr. Myrick explained the process and the slide presentation that would be included.

Mr. Knuff spoke to the glaring omission of the architecture.

Mr. Myrick stated they are collecting information as to architecture, etc.

Mr. Knuff asked what happens once a table completes their task.

Mr. Myrick explained each table would be asked to brainstorm, and then two people from the table would go to the podium to talk through their table's discussion, etc. He also explained his colleague Marissa would create a visual poster from the discussions. He stated it would be a combination of words, drawings, etc.

Ald. Vitali asked if the intent of the workshop was to have members of the community be part of the discussion or if the facilitator would report as to the discussions of each table.

Mr. Myrick stated each table would be assigned a reporter who would report back once the exercise was complete. He stated staff would assist each table.

Mr. Fernandez stated he had two concerns, the first was to the aspect of design and architecture and second what kind of presentation would be provided. He asked if there would be options, options, visuals, etc.

Mr. Myrick state there would be various styles available such as a Cape Cod, Litchfield, and Stamford, to name a few. He explained the options would be for people to discuss and provide reaction.

Mr. Fernandez stated another concern was the quasi morals position or practical concern as the project moves forward. He stated they need to be sure the town has the option to facilitate the program, and that it may not necessary be what the developer wants. He stated this Committee needs to be strong as to what it wants; especially representing the residents of this town. He referenced the report that had come out.

Mr. Myrick stated he agreed. He stated he believed Milford was strong and would specify what they wanted. He referenced the basic spreadsheets and what makes financial sense.

Mr. Myrick added the design firm proposes things that are out of the box as well as economically viable. He stated there needs to be a vision from the community as to what is acceptable and not and that they come up with something that works for all. Part of the scope of their work is a set of design guidelines, architectural style, etc.

Mr. Fernandez stated he wished to be clear that the guidelines must fit all the people of the town.

Mr. Knuff stated the activities at each of the tables would help support Mr. Fernandez' concern and ensure interaction with the residents.

Mr. Fernandez commented he felt the real estate analysis set the tone for the project.

Mr. Knuff stated there is a process, which this Committee continues to move towards. He asked if this Committee could be of assistance the night of the workshop, such as set up, etc.

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Myrick left the call at 9:20 a.m.

Ms. Nash asked the Committee to help get the word out regarding the June 14th workshop.

Mr. Jadach asked about the Department of Transportation and stated he would contact Craig.

Ms. Nash stated she would send an invite through the City's Facebook.

Mr. Knuff asked if everyone on the green received notification of the workshop.

Ms. Nash stated they did.

Mr. Fernandez stated more needed to be done to get the flyer out.

Ms. Nash stated it was also the responsibility of this Committee to get the word out.

Mr. Fernandez expressed his concerns regarding communication.

Ald. Vitali asked if there is a list of residents on Darina Place and if they were notified.

Ms. Nash stated Ald. Anderson has been the contact with the Darina Place residents.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Acting Recording Secretary