

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

Chairman Musante called to order the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 6:00 PM, Shelton Economic Development Corporation, 475 Howe Avenue, Suite 202, Shelton, CT 06484.

The following Commissioners were present to constitute a quorum:

Fred Musante, Chairman
Fred Ruggio, Vice Chairman
Dr. Robert Burlison
Kate Marks (arrived 6:11)
Karen McGovern

Also Present: James Ryan, President, Shelton Economic Development Corporation

MEETING ON TAPE, ON FILE, CITY/TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (1 TAPE)

1.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2007 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Burlison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 16, 2007. Commissioner McGovern seconded the motion. Discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2.0 REPORT OF JAMES RYAN, PRESIDENT, SEDC:

Mr. Ryan reported that Planning and Zoning unanimously approved the potential investment on Canal Street. The developer needed this conceptual approval in order to acquire the asphalt plant property this year. Mr. Ryan said he had conversation with Senator Debicella and Representative Belden concerning the senate bill that would provide us with \$2 million toward infrastructure costs for Canal Street. Mr. Ryan met this morning with Mayor Lauretti, John Anglace and Corporation Counsel to discuss the two engineering contracts, and action will be taken within the next 30-60 days. One contract is with Rotundo Engineering to do the study phase of the riverwalk; the second is for Canal Street design. In 2007, the study phase for the riverwalk will be finished, and preliminary engineering for Canal Street will be near completion. There is a prospect that some work will be started on Canal Street in 2009. Discussion of railroad crossings; additional traffic light; coordinating downtown traffic signals; widening Wooster Street and Canal Street. The study phase for the riverwalk should start May/June and should take 90-120 days.

(Note: Commissioner Marks arrived at 6:11.)

3.0 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF ONGOING PROJECTS:

3.1 COMMUNITY/BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

In lieu of a March newsletter, a mid-May issue will be published. Work on this will commence at a workshop tomorrow at noon.

3.2 ANNUAL REPORT

This will be addressed at tomorrow's meeting.

3.3 FLAG DAY PICNIC – JUNE 15, 2007

A budget has been established and plans are in place for this event. The invitation will be prepared shortly.

3.4 MAIN EVENT

One of the reasons for delaying the newsletter is to coincide publication with the main event. The event will be held in the atrium of The Birmingham Condos on the River. We expect a maximum of 200 business people and civic leaders. We are looking into the possibility of hiring the Coastal Chordsmen for entertainment. Date (second or third week in May) will be established next week after meeting with developer. Food will consist of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.

oeuvres, beer, wine and soft drinks. We will seek financial support from the business community.

The Mayor will be the keynote speaker, and the developer will detail his plans for the riverfront project. All commissioners will be active participants in the event and input is welcomed. The event is a culmination of the gigantic effort the city has put forth in development. General discussion of impact of downtown projects.

Discussion of branding a new theme: "Vision to see; Faith to Believe; Courage to Do." We will still focus on "Balanced Community" but hope to use this as focal point in future approaches.

3.5 PROPOSED JOINT BUS TOUR IN SPRING

The bus tour will not be held this year due to our involvement with other projects. This item will be removed from next agenda and reconsidered at a future date.

4.0 BUDGET REVIEW:

4.1 CURRENT BUDGET

Commissioner Ruggio reviewed line items of current budget. The area of potential shortage is Meetings, Travel, Conference. The budget for the main event has been reviewed with the Mayor, and a letter will be sent to the business community in mid-March requesting contributions to help subsidize the cost of the event. There is sufficient money in Printing and Advertising now that we are only publishing one issue of the newsletter. Don Coiro is getting prices in increments up to 40 pages for expansion of the newsletter.

4.2 FY 2007/2008 BUDGET REQUEST

All commissioners are invited to attend the budget presentation on March 1 at City Hall.

5.0 AREA PROJECTS:

5.1 COG

This item will be removed from agenda, as there is nothing to report. COG is functioning and there is good rapport with the four towns.

5.2 VALLEY TRANSIT DISTRICT

Chairman Musante reported that the decision to bring in the management company was correct. They have done a fine job. They have established a good relationship with DOT in Hartford, they are getting cooperation, and it is moving along slowly. Hopefully, it will be out of the red by year's end.

5.3 LONG RANGE PLAN

There had been talk by committee members of keeping an eye on whether the plan was being observed. That is not being done at this time, but the trust is that all involved will maintain the integrity of the plan.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS:

No discussion.

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7.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Musante is serving on the committee to plan SEDC's 25th anniversary observation in January 2008. Mr. Ryan commented that there is special significance for the Economic Development Commission, because in the late 1960s the commission was one of the first to go on record as recommending the creation of a non-profit development corporation.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Marks moved to adjourn at 6:38 PM. Commissioner Ruggio seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Diane Luther, Clerk
Economic Development Commission

DATE APPROVED BY MEMBERS:
3/20/07

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007, AT 6:00 PM, SHELTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.