

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MAY 15, 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
Robert Burlison
Karen McGovern
Kate Marks

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 APRIL 17, 2007 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Ruggio moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 17, 2007. Commissioner Burlison seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, with 1 abstention (K. Marks). Motion carried.

2.0 REPORT OF JAMES RYAN, PRESIDENT, SEDC:

Mr. Ryan reviewed a presentation he made at SEDC's quarterly meeting, giving an overview of SEDC's activities and highlights of the city's development projects. The Birmingham Condos are getting ready for occupancy. There is a slight issue with SDC that is being worked on. Discussion of Canal Street progress.

3.0 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF ONGOING PROJECTS:

3.1 COMMUNITY/BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

The commissioners reviewed draft copies of the newsletter. Chairman Musante reported that the newsletter is nearly complete and includes the 20 winners of the art contest. There were four groups: Grades 2 through 4
5 and 6
7 and 8
9 through 12

Each group was awarded a first and second prize plus three honorable mentions. The students' work is incredibly good and reflects great talent.

Chairman Musante discussed the letter from Alderman York to the editor of Shelton Weekly questioning the motives of Shelton Life and accusing the publisher and editors of producing a political document with specific purposes. Chairman Musante made an appearance at the next meeting of the Board of Aldermen to refute the statement and received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his talk. Two other speakers supported the publication at the meeting. Shelton Weekly subsequently published letters of response from Chairman Musante and two citizens.

3.2 ANNUAL REPORT

Much work has been done on the report. We are awaiting the approval of the budget in order to proceed.

3.3 FLAG DAY PICNIC – JUNE 15, 2007

Invitations will be sent shortly. One of the highlights of the picnic will be presentation of awards for the art contest. Chairman Musante explained that the commission had tried for several years to run the contest with very little community response. With cooperation from Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, we were able to work with Sue Weir, Art Department Chair, to include the project of people, places and events in our city as part of the curriculum, with voluntary participation in the contest. The response was terrific with over 200 entries. Sue Weir chose fifteen for each of the four categories, and judging took place last week by a panel consisting of Don Coiro, Helen Musante and Sue Weir. We hope to make this an annual event and made it clear that it is a Board of Education program with the commission functioning to advertise, promote and award the prizes. A theme for next year could possibly be our state, its people and events. This is open for discussion.

Chairman Musante said the commission should take pride in the success of our projects.

3.4 MAIN EVENT

The main event held on May 7 at Brownson Country Club was a success with nearly 200 guests in attendance with opportunity for networking. Numerous businesses and all banks were represented. Brownson handled everything well.

4.0 BUDGET REVIEW:

4.1 CURRENT BUDGET

Commissioner Ruggio reviewed the budget and said we have a balance of just under \$22,000. There will be additional encumbrances and costs associated with the picnic and annual report. We should stay within budget for the year.

4.2 FY 2007/2008 BUDGET REQUEST

We are waiting for final word but assume our budget will be as requested.

5.0 AREA PROJECTS:

5.1 VALLEY TRANSIT DISTRICT

Chairman Musante said VTD is making the turn with the force of the mayors. It will survive and thrive. The management group that was hired to work with VTD has introduced a new system of working with businesses to transport their help. The management group is using some of the concepts they introduced in Bridgeport. VTD has been asked to do an article for our next newsletter

5.2 LONG RANGE PLAN

Chairman Musante said there has been discussion. From what he has read in the minutes of P&Z, it is emphasized that the Long Range Plan has to be amended if any changes are made. There is diligent attention to following both the spirit and the letter. It is a serious matter with P&Z. Commissioner McGovern agreed.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS:

No discussion.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of ice cream shop at Wells Hollow Farm as a possible article for the newsletter. The commission will not meet in July and August. If necessary, a special meeting will be called.

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8.0 ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Ruggio moved to adjourn at 6:40 PM. Commissioner Marks seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Diane Luther, Clerk
Economic Development Commission

DATE APPROVED BY MEMBERS:

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007, AT 6:00 PM, SHELTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.