

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MARCH 18, 2008

Chairman Musante called to order the Special 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
Dr. Robert Burlison
Karen McGovern
Kate Marks

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2008 SPECIAL MEETING:

Commissioner McGovern moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held January 22, 2008. Commissioner Marks seconded the motion. All were in favor with 1 abstention- Commissioner Ruggio. Motion carried.

REPORT OF JAMES RYAN, PRESIDENT, SEDC:

Mr. Ryan reported that Governor Rell visited the Veterans Memorial in Shelton today. She announced to a group of about fifty people that next week she will place on the bond agenda a grant of \$2 million toward our Canal Street reconstruction program. That amount must be matched by the City. Chairman Musante requested a photo and write-up for the current newsletter.

Mr. Ryan gave the commissioners a detailed presentation on downtown. He stated the plan amendment for the B. F. Goodrich site is still under review by Attorney Tom Welch and is expected shortly. The tax foreclosure on the Axton Cross parcel will be finished April 14. That action will give the City Axton Cross, Samarius, Rolfite and a small strip of land that Chromium Process owns. The plan amendment is related to those areas. Three large tanks were removed in the Rolfite cleanup and SEDC's Executive Committee authorized getting pricing for the fourth tank that was identified, and that work should happen April/May. Mr. Ryan discussed the \$100,000 grant for the design of the groundwater cleanup on Axton Cross site. Also anticipated is a decision on a federal grant to allow starting the cleanup. The Phase 3 preliminary engineering report has been reviewed with the Mayor, Planning and Zoning, and the developer and has been sent on to the State for processing in late April. The State has to give the City a contract for their work. The State is cooperating to expedite the project as soon as possible. The minimum goal is to get the railroad crossing built in spring/summer 2009. The State grant provides the money for the railroad crossing and other work. Construction estimate for Canal Street is \$2.5 million; Wooster Street is \$1 million; utility costs are about \$2.5 million. Mr. Ryan emphasized this is construction only and does not include right of ways, engineering, etc. The Governor announced today and the Mayor pointed out there will be a fourth phase for finishing the work. The City has to make a decision on the direction of the Riverwalk extension. The Citizens Advisory Committee has recommended that it stay on river. Mr. Ryan encouraged the commission to take a position. Planning and Zoning will discuss it next week. Renderings of the Riverwalk were shown and discussed.

Mr. Ryan stated that although not a requirement, all phases are being referred to Planning and Zoning to ensure everyone is well informed and to establish a good historical connection.

Mr. Ryan said the eighteen town partnership is going well. There is a new chief executive in Waterbury, and Fred Musante has agreed to join. The group meets four times per year. A conference on Brownfields is being planned for June 12 in Waterbury.

Mr. Ryan briefly discussed the work of CEDS (Conference of Economic Development Strategies).

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An update was given on the status of the canal closure.

Mr. Ryan discussed plans for SEDC's 25th Anniversary on Tuesday, May 13. Invitations will be sent next week and commissioners are invited. Fundraising has been kicked off, and \$5,300 has been raised so far. The committee has been hard at work.

Flag Day Picnic on June 13 will include a Barnum feature. Iroquois has recommitted \$1,500 to the event.

SEDC was asked to provide staff work on the tribute to Richard Belden, and the commission is lending support. The date was chosen to take advantage of the fact there was a tent in place for Flag Day. Chairman Musante has provided guidance on a booklet for the event.

Mr. Ryan reported on the Valley Community Foundation and its recent annual meeting. He also stated that Rosa DeLauro attended the recent Chamber congressional breakfast and gave an update on what is happening with economic development from a congressional point of view.

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF ONGOING PROJECTS:

Community/Business Newsletter

Chairman Musante circulated a copy of the newsletter that will be going to press on Thursday and will be distributed with the Connecticut Post on March 26 and then by the Post Office.

Annual Report

Chairman Musante stated the preliminary work on the Annual Report will start in September and briefly described the process.

Flag Day Picnic – June 13, 2008

Discussion took place in Mr. Ryan's report.

Tribute to the Life of Richard Belden – June 14, 2008

As mentioned in Mr. Ryan's report, the City and the Board of Aldermen are holding a celebration of Richard Belden, which will take place the day following the picnic on Saturday, June 14, at 9:30 a.m. An oil painting of the late Representative Belden has been contracted and will be presented to the City and a copy to Mrs. Belden. The painting will be featured on the cover of the sixteen-page booklet, which will be a series of testimonials and photographs of Dick in various phases of his life – family, church, service, city, work and the legislature.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Commissioner Ruggio reported the balance of the 2007-08 FY budget is about \$33,000 at this point; however, because of additional expenses that amount is expected to be spent in full by the end of June. The 2008-09 FY budget request of \$80,500 was approved by Apportionment and Taxation with few questions. This amount includes \$31,000 for the Annual Report. Mr. Ryan commented that A&T did a nice job and made sure they got all the information they needed to have a good decision. A&T also reported on the awards EDC received this past year. Commissioner Ruggio agreed that the board consisted of an excellent group of people who did their homework, knew what they were doing, and listened. Chairman Musante commented that the newsletter is now an institution of the City and is considered part of what the City does. He expressed hope that future commissions will continue the work we have started.

AREA PROJECTS:

Valley Transit District

Chairman Musante said he was unable to attend the last meeting; however, the Mayor has said he hopes that within a year's time, all will be worked out. Chairman Musante commented that the Mayor has been the driving force in turning the situation around. Commissioner Ruggio said there are currently signs that it is working in that there are buses on the road.

Long Range Plan

Chairman Musante said the Long Range Plan continues to be followed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Derby/Shelton Bridge – As President of Derby/Shelton Rotary, Commissioner Kate Marks explained a project being developed by Rotary to do a rendition of the façade of the Derby/Shelton Bridge to make some esthetic improvements. A committee was formed and earmarked \$ 4,000 toward the project. Jim Tate has done a history of the bridge and an existing conditions report. He is working on the renditions and will present his ideas to Rotary, who will partner up with the Chamber of Commerce and the Mayors of both cities. The condition of the bridge is fine to handle traffic and is structurally sound. Photographs of the bridge were circulated and discussed. Mr. Ryan said the project will take a few years, and being a two-town project makes it easier to get federal transportation money. He stated the bridge is listed as historic. Commissioner Marks said although her term as President ends June 30, the project will continue. Chairman Musante suggested doing a two-page article in the June newsletter. This area project will be added to our next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner McGovern moved to adjourn at 6:36 PM. Commissioner Burlison seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Diane Luther, Clerk
Economic Development Commission

DATE APPROVED BY MEMBERS:

THE NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 15, 2008, AT 6:00 PM, AT THE OFFICE OF SHELTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.