

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MARCH 17, 2009

Chairman Fred 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
Kate Marks

Members Absent: Karen McGovern (excused)

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

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

Chairman Musante discussed the addition of a Public Session to this and future meetings. There was no one from the public to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2009 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Ruggio moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 20, 2009. Commissioner Marks seconded the motion. (Chairman Musante abstained.) Motion carried.

REPORT OF JAMES RYAN PRESIDENT, SEDC:

Mr. Ryan reported that SEDC's budget was reduced by the City. Mr. Ryan reviewed the progress of Canal Street. He said cleanup activities will begin June/July as a result of the \$425,000 grant from the State. Mr. Ryan discussed the status of the riverwalk extension project and progress of the Samarius, Rolfite, Axton Cross parcels. Mr. Ryan said there is a possibility of receiving some federal stimulus money, and there will be shovel-ready projects. There will be a newsletter article on the eighteen town economic development partnership. A grant application to do a new five-year plan is being worked on this week. Chairman Musante lauded SEDC and the other 17 towns for promoting the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which is vital to each town's future.

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF ONGOING PROJECTS:

Community/Business Newsletter

The newsletter is ready to go to press and will be published on Thursday, March 26.

Annual Report

Work continues on the Annual Report. Various artwork is being considered for the cover.

Flag Day Picnic

Planning is underway for the June 12 event. James Ryan is coordinating with the Barnum Festival, as was done last year. We are looking into a band/orchestra that would be provided free of charge by the State. The Art Contest will follow parameters as done in the past. Shelton Public Schools Art Department will run the contest and judging, and EDC will handle the promotion and prizes. There had been a question about including non-public students in the contest. The project is under the jurisdiction of the Shelton Public Schools and is part of their Art curriculum. The contest is open to Shelton Public School students only. The Commission's role is to promote the contest and provide funding for prizes.

Main Event

Nothing is scheduled at this time.

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BUDGET:

Commissioner Ruggio reviewed the current budget and indicated there is no change from last month. Several invoices amounting to about \$5,000 were approved tonight for the newsletter and annual report. Most expenses will be coming shortly.

There was discussion of the budget meeting with A&T and the Board of Aldermen at which numerous questions had been asked about the Flag Day Picnic. As the 2009-2010 budget request was cut from \$48,201 to \$37,201 (\$11,000 from Meetings/Travel/Conferences), it would appear that neither the traditional picnic nor the main event will take place next year. We will review our budget to see if there is any way to fund the picnic.

AREA PROJECTS:

Valley Transit District

There will be an article on VTD in the upcoming newsletter.

Long Range Plan

It has been reported that Shelton's plan was adopted almost identically by Greenwich. Pete DeCarlo has spoken with Glenn Chalder of Planametrics, who has offered to meet with committee members and Planning and Zoning free of charge for an informal review our plan.

Derby-Shelton Bridge

Commissioner Marks said she will reschedule with Jim Tate to do a presentation. Mr. Ryan said there is a bridge program that will have funding sometime later this year that might apply to the design.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Musante discussed our previous inquiry about protecting "Shelton Life" as a trademark/trade name. At that time, we were told that it is nothing distinctive, just words. He feels it is a vital asset to the city that needs to be protected. This topic will be revisited.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Marks moved to adjourn at 6:50 PM. Commissioner Burlison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Diane Luther, Clerk
Economic Development Commission

DATE APPROVED BY MEMBERS: