

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 EAST CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101, LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014
7:00 P.M.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Karen Faust
Commissioner Michael Fox
Commissioner Charlene Garcia
Commissioner David Marsden (excused)
Commissioner Greg Polk (absent)
Commissioner Pamela Raynock
Commissioner Fernando Rosa (excused)
Commissioner Clifford Stamm
Commissioner Linda Woods

PRESENT: Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Fox made a motion to accept the April 2, 2014 minutes and Commissioner Stamm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gary Bolles, a life long resident of Newington voiced his view concerning the possible development of 400 housing units near the Newington junction.
Rose Lyons also attended the recently held Newington Junction meeting expressing her views regarding the long term proposed plans, along with Newington's gateway and Constitution Square signage.

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brecher attended a CROGG meeting May 1, 2014 regarding Newington junction and "the concept plans will explore employment generation". Director Brecher drew a sketch depicting Amtrak and the Busway at Newington Junction, posing the question, who would be interested in this plan? The possibilities include destination retail; housing for those employed in Research and Development, such as the UConn Health Center's new research building, a small park, parking garages which leads to two points - There is a rich possibility for economic development which will depend on a huge monetary investment.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Downtown Signage for Constitution Square/Market Square

Director Brecher distributed the article "Signs Point the Way to Constitution Square" exclaiming that the signs turned out to be great and that a project which began in 1987 was finally completed.

B. Gateway/Directional Signage - Director Brecher

The Gateway Signage project has also been a completed long term goal which will require a comprehensive inventory along with some minor corrections.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Holiday Event

Director Brecher reported that he has received the assignment to procure an inventory of possible sites to hold a holiday event, which was passed out to the members. Director Brecher also approached the Chamber of Commerce, inviting them to attend the holiday event. Commissioner Garcia suggested a Thanksgiving date. After the members have studied the list, the choice should be reduced to three possible locations, along with holding it on the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gary Bolles once again discussed the May 2, 2014 CROGG meeting.

Rose Lyons commended the members of the Economic Development Commission for being proactive and highlighted that the vision for the development of Constitution Square went as far back as Mayor Wright's tenure and asked the question, "What IS the vision for the center of town"?

VIII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Fox spoke about Newington Center and also the future development of the Hartford hospital property which drew feedback from Councilor Raynock regarding the bump outs on Markets Square and also the possibility of having this street go "one way" only.

Director Brecher added that Newington is a mature community and to combat that would be to develop more taxable properties; that we need a "shot in the arm - the good, cool new stuff to "re-create a more vibrant Newington" He added that the greater Hartford area is now composed of a new cohort of residents, namely - "the younger generation"!

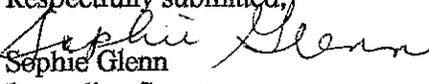
Commissioner Stamm promoted the Chamber of Commerce and its events.

Commissioner Raynock stated that she has been a resident of Newington for 54 years and encourages more walking in the town center, for seniors and families.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stamm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary