

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101, LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Also present
Economic Development Director, Andrew Brecher

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 6, 2013

Commissioner Rosa made a motion to approve the November 6, 2013 minutes and Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons welcomed the newly appointed members of the commission and for a successful year for the Economic Development Commission.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of officers for 2014

Commissioner Fox nominated Commissioner Rosa to be the Chairman, which was seconded by Commissioner Raynock. Commissioner Marsden was also nominated. Commissioner Rosa was elected Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. There was a tie for Vice-Chairman, which will be voted on at the next meeting. Commissioner Polk was elected Secretary.

Chairman Rosa, the newly elected Economic Development Chairman stated that he chaired the Wethersfield Economic Development program for fourteen years and with this experience is happy to be the EDC Chairman for 2014! Secretary Greg Polk noted that he has been a part of the Newington Chamber of Commerce for 16 years and is happy to serve as secretary of the Economic Development Commission.

Newly appointed Commissioners Fox, Raynock and Garcia gave welcoming comments for their appointments to the Economic Development Commission. In return, Chairman Rosa welcomed everyone for a successful year!

B. SETTING 2014 MEETING DATES

All members received the 2014 scheduled Economic Development meeting dates for 2014. Commission Fox made a motion to accept the appointed schedule which was seconded by Commissioner Marsden and approved unanimously by members of the commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Downtown Signage for Constitution Square/Market Square

Director Brecher summarized the progress that has been made in replacing a number of older signs at Constitution Square, along with now being on line electronically with GPS. He also noted that the signs will be physically very attractive and are being fabricated by Biana Signs.

B. Gateway Signage

Chairman Rosa explained that this particular signage project will take time to become uniform; a work in progress and that previous Commissioner Stanley Marcinczyk notably contributed to the groundwork of this project.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons was gratified for the signage being pushed forward and the persistence of this commission to bring the project to this point and that it is on a roll.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Andrew Brecher presented a computerized view of 10 Economical Development projects for the Town of Newington with introductory remarks highlighting that the attraction of added vitality to this town would include the youthful generation looking to settle in Newington.

10. The former Cedar Crest Hospital property with 70+ acres.
- 9., The redevelopment of Twin City plaza with tenant occupation of all real estate enhancing the gateway to Newington.
8. East Cedar and Berlin Turnpike - the vacant property which holds the possibility of medical, retail and gas station development.
7. The former Atlantic Tool property which needs remediation and then will be appropriate for industrial use.
6. Stanwell Road (off Willard Avenue) a private road, near Stonehedge Landscaping bears watching for future development.
5. Alumni Road - 10 acres of potential industrial property available with a breakthrough at DOT recently that the possibility of a signal light could be erected at the intersection of Cedar and Alumni Road with the hiring of a traffic engineer to evaluate this project.
4. Berlin Turnpike - looking north of McDonald's the potential for more development of retail does exist, including the possibility of a hotel/banquet center.

3. Newington Junction - The state's Capital Region Commission is completing a marketing study for the 100+ acres that are available at this site, plus the need of a new point of access.
2. National Welding - These 4 acres have a tremendous potential for economic development activity, but still pending is the request for funds to demolish the site by the State.
1. Newington Town Center - Best Market has opened and Reno Properties are in charge of renting the rest of the vacancies.. There are 75 plus acres underutilized at the Town center with lots of potential for development at the former Newington Children's Hospital site which a consultant could design a mixed use and green space environment to develop Newington's Town Center. In conclusion, Development Director Andrew Brecher spoke passionately of the steady grand list growth and vibrancy of the Town Center and received accolades from all of the members of the Economic Development Commission.

VIII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

A. District Reports - Commissioner Fox voiced concern regarding the utility poles and sidewalk bumpouts at Market Square. Director Brecher noted that this would be a costly project to reconfigure the construction.

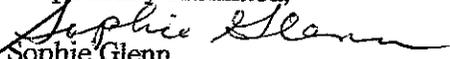
B. Chamber Report

Commissioner Polk will now be reporting from the Downtown Business Association for activities in 2014.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary