

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, June 27, 2013  
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Beebe, Bresnahan (5:45), Dorgan (5:51), Fecho (5:47), Ferrigno, Hirschorn, McGuire, Thompson

Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Ferrigno.

Public Comment

- No public comment was received.

New Business

- **Role of a Municipal EDC in Connecticut.** Hart introduced Patrick McMahon, the Director of Community and Economic Development for the Town of Suffield. McMahon identified four roles for an EDC: sounding board, advocacy, reconnaissance, and outreach and gave examples of typical activities for each role. He also identified other potential economic development tools such as economic gardening (using Littleton, CO as an example), developing an incentive package, improving the speed and predictability of the local development review process, working with town staff and other committees on infrastructure planning efforts, interfacing with state representatives, and creating a heritage tourism council. After the presentation, members asked about techniques to promote regionalism, identifying areas for preservation and growth, development of a strategic work plan, and metrics. At the conclusion of the presentation, both Hart and McMahon departed.

Approval of Minutes

- March 28, 2013 – Beebe MOVED, Thompson SECONDED approval of the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

- **Business Activity.** Painter updated the Commission on recent business activity, including a significant renovation of Starbucks, the opening of The Adventure Park at Storrs, and pending applications at the PZC for the expansion of the Public America gas station and the expansion of the Charles River Labs. Hirschorn mentioned the upcoming closing of JC Penney at Eastbrook Mall and requested that staff reach out to the mall owner to see if there was any way the Commission could be of assistance.
- **Events.** Painter advised the Commission of an invitation from the Coventry EDC for a forum on appropriate infrastructure and septic system design. Dorgan volunteered to represent the EDC at the forum.
- **Other.** Members discussed the need to develop a 1 to 2 year work plan that identifies projects/tasks with the goal of having members volunteer for different tasks. Members also discussed whether they wanted to actively endorse proposed projects. While no consensus was reached, it was noted that if the Commission were interested in endorsing projects, there should be criteria that are used to determine whether an endorsement is appropriate. In the interim, Painter will refer pending PZC applications to the Commission for informational purposes.

Based on vacations and other upcoming meetings, the July regular meeting will be cancelled. No decision was made with regard to August.

Old Business

1. **Water Supply EIE.** Painter updated the Commission on the status of the EIE. A Record of Decision from UConn is expected in early August. Bresnahan noted an upcoming water forum in Windham on June 29<sup>th</sup> that will be hosted by the League of Women Voters.
2. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Painter provided an update on recent activities and advised the Commission that another focus group meeting is being scheduled for the end of July; more details to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development