

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Special Meeting  
Wednesday, January 29, 2014  
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: McGuire, Ferrigno, Hirschorn, Fecho, Thompson  
Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Ferrigno.

Public Comment

- No public comment was received.

Approval of Minutes

- November 21, 2013 – Hirschorn MOVED, McGuire SECONDED approval of the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

- **Business Activity.** Painter and Hart updated the Commission on recent business activity including the opening of the UCONN Co-op Bookstore, Le Petit Marche Café and Storrs Wine and Spirits at Storrs Center and the closing of Flowers by Nina.
- **Chamber of Commerce/MBPA.** Hart noted that the Home and Business Expo is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Eastbrook Mall. The MBPA has not met in several months. McGuire and Hirschorn suggested holding off on trying to develop a new meeting format until the Commission is further along in its work plan.
- **Upcoming Events:** Winter Fun Week starts the weekend of February 1<sup>st</sup>-collaboration between Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Town; Grand Opening for bookstore, café and Ballard Institute of Museum and Puppetry scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Old Business

1. **Water Supply EIE.** Hart updated the Commission on the approval of an agreement with the Connecticut Water Company and noted that there may be a bond referendum scheduled for November for the sewer project at Four Corners.
2. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Painter noted that a draft plan is expected to be released to the Advisory Group and various town committees for review in the next few weeks. The draft will be a key item for discussion at the Commission's next meeting.
3. **Developing an EDC Work Plan.** Painter provided an overview of the project list distributed as part of the packet. McGuire and Hirschorn reviewed their work to date on creating a business visitation program, including the model questionnaire and meeting notes included in the packet. Members were requested to review the suggested questions and provide feedback to John and Marty in the next couple of weeks. Painter and Hart will work on drafting an introductory letter and developing a list of businesses and contact information within a short radius of town hall. They would like to finalize a questionnaire and procedure at the February meeting. Councilman Alex Marcellino, who was in the audience, volunteered to assist with visiting businesses.

Hart noted that he and Bresnahan had also met to discuss strategies for regional coordination, including hosting networking events with other local EDCs, with different communities hosting each quarter. Mansfield could host the first event, and invite Greg Lewis with the SBDC to make a presentation.

## New Business

4. **Economic Development Budget/Resources.** Painter and Hart noted that development of the Town Manager's proposed budget is currently under way and that they are working to identify needs related to economic development. A proposed budget will be shared with the Commission at a later date.
5. **Next Meeting/Agenda Items.** Key items for discussion at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting include Mansfield Tomorrow draft plan and the business visitation program.

McGuire MOVED, Hirschorn seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

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