



**FINANCE AND GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING
By Teleconference**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022
4:30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: Chair Toni Moran, Ryan Aylesworth, Mario Conjura, Shamim Patwa, Paul Shapiro

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Chair Toni Moran called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Finance and Growth Committee Minutes from December 15, 2021

Shamim Patwa made a motion to approve the December 15, 2021 minutes. Mario Conjura seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Review and Recommendation to Board of Directors of final DRAFT FY22-23 Budget

Ms. van Zelm said the revised budget included the two key changes made by the Committee at its December Committee meeting: decreasing the Travel/Conferences line item to take out the cost of parking for two employees in the Town parking garage; and changing the staff increases from 2 percent to 2.5 percent. She noted she had informed LAZ Parking about the parking change and there was no concern.

Ryan Aylesworth made a motion to recommend that the Draft FY22-23 budget be sent to the Board of Directors for review. Mr. Conjura seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. Update on Strategic Plan Next Steps, and Downtown Storrs

Ms. van Zelm reviewed the next steps for the strategic plan including future meetings and buy-in on the Strategic Action Plan by the major commercial property owners; and developing a working group(s) to take on the implementation.

All Committee members thought it was important to have property owners serve on the Board as it allows them to be more involved and have a stake in the success of the Downtown Partnership.

Ms. van Zelm said Brooklyn Dumplings has not opened yet.



With respect to events, Partnership staff and some Board members are working on promoting student involvement in Downtown Storrs events – both sponsoring their own events and ways Partnership events could appeal to students.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Shapiro made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Conjura seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm