

**Economic Development Commission
Minutes
April 5, 2010**

Members Present: Richard Nunn, Chairman
Joseph Mirra, Vice-Chairman
Tom Collette
Gary Fappiano
Mark Gingras
Jim Wolfe

Members Absent: Rosemarie Preneta

Others Present: Don Roe
Doreen DeSarro
John LeTourneau

Chairman Dick Nunn called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes dated March 1, 2010** – Jim Wolfe made a motion to approve the March 1, 2010 minutes with no changes; Mark Gingras seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.
2. **Review of Expenditure Report 09-10** – Nothing to report concerning the February report. Dick Nunn asked if staff anticipates underruns; staff indicated that most of the budget will be spent on marketing initiatives.
3. **Staff Reports on Marketing Program and Downtown/WCI** – Doreen DeSarro distributed and reviewed the marketing report for March. Members discussed how best to increase the readership of the CCAED quarterly newsletter and suggested also sending it out to the Quinnipiac Chamber members. Doreen DeSarro said the Chamber does not feel comfortable sharing its e-mail membership list with Web Solutions, who distributes the CCAED quarterly meeting; members suggested sending the newsletter to the Chamber and asking that it be distributed as an insert to the Chamber's monthly

Gary Fappiano arrived at 6:40 p.m.

e-newsletter. Doreen anticipated the Chamber charging for this service. *Doreen DeSarro will talk to Robin Wilson at the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce about e-mailing the quarterly CCAED newsletter to Chamber members.*

Doreen reminded the EDC that the Business Expo takes place on Thursday, April 8. There are still two time slots open for volunteers; Gary Fappiano said he would be able to help from 3-5 p.m. No one was able to help from 1-3 p.m.

Doreen reviewed with the Commission some downtown items. She mentioned that the Gardeners' Market will open July 17.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- **P&Z Liaison** – Joe Mirra thanked all of the members who attended the recent workshop with the Planning & Zoning Commission. Another workshop is planned for April 26 at 7 p.m. in Room 315. At the last workshop, there was some discussion about including retail as a use within the I-5 zone. Since this would impact both downtown and Route 5, members felt it important to have both WCI and Ralph Messite (with representatives from Route 5) attend the April workshop. *John LeTourneau said he will talk to WCI; Doreen DeSarro said she will try to contact Mr. Messite.* Joe Mirra mentioned a few reasons for not allowing retail within the I-5: the I-5 is a prime location and very valuable property; residents who live nearby expect the zone to be business/office buildings, not 24-hour retail; and retail in the I-5 zone will negatively impact the Route 5 and downtown areas of the Town. Doreen DeSarro said a realtor recently commented on the value of the I-5 zone – Wallingford is the only town along I-91 from New Haven to Hartford that still has vacant parcels zoned for office space (with the exception of Rocky Hill which has 2 parcels). *It was agreed that staff will prepare a short summary of the EDC's position on changing the I-5 zone and include major talking points.*
- **Retention/Incentives** – No report.
- **Marketing** - Mark Gingras asked members to return any completed surveys to Doreen DeSarro. The deadline for submitting the completed surveys has been extended to **May 21**. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 26.
- **Workforce Alliance** – Joe Mirra said that four out of six companies contacted (all of whom have a large customer service section) seem interested in meeting to discuss training available with stimulus money. Chris at Workforce Alliance wants to proceed. The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce has offered their building for the meeting; the Public Library is also being considered. Jim Wolfe said Dick Nunn, if asked about the EDC's accomplishments, should mention this program at the Town Council budget hearing. Joe mentioned that WA has also thought about arranging for meeting with utility companies and will contact Rick Hendershot, Wallingford Electric Division, and someone from United Illuminating.

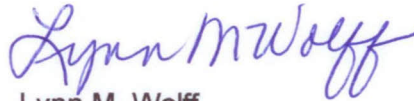
5. Regional Matters

- **Central CT Alliance for Economic Development** – Discussed earlier; no further report.
- **New Haven Manufacturers Association** — Staff will continue to forward any e-mails concerning items of interest.
- **Regional Growth Partnership** – Don Roe said that he has a conflict and can no longer make the Friday meetings. He believes that they are still working mostly on brownfields initiatives.
- **Workforce Alliance** – Discussed earlier.
- **Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce** – No report.

6. **Discussion re: May 3 Budget Workshop and May 3 EDC Meeting** – Don said that, due to the conflict with the Budget Workshop, the May 3 EDC meeting needs to be cancelled. Members discussed whether or not to reschedule. *It was decided that a special meeting in May will be called at the discretion of the chairman*; otherwise, the next EDC meeting will be June 7.

There being no further business, Tom Collette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; Jim Wolfe seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Sincerely,



Lynn M. Wolff