

**Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2020**

Present: Joe Mirra, Chair
Jim Wolfe, Vice-Chair
Hank Baum, Commissioner
Mark Gingras, Commissioner
Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner
Anthony Bracale, Alternate/Voting Member
Rob Fritz, Alternate/Voting Member

Absent: Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner
Gary Fappiano, Commissioner

Others Present: Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist
Lynn Wolff, Secretary
Ginny Kozlowski, CEO, REX
Barbara Malmberg, Project Manager, REX
Robert DeMaio
Ed Hohmann
Carl Josephson
Jessica Wysocki

Chair Joe Mirra called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. To accommodate the set-up time for the presentation, the agenda order was altered slightly.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 6, 2020 – Rosemarie Preneta made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Jim Wolfe seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote of members present (Commissioner Fritz was absent for this vote), the motion carried.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Mirra led the EDC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Presentation by Regional Economic Xcelleration (REX) on CEDS – Ginny Kozlowski briefly explained REX and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Barbara Malmberg then went through their Power Point presentation on CEDS (*copy attached*). Some items highlighted included: 95.3% of the Rob Fritz arrived at 6:33 p.m.

employees in our 15-town region work for smaller employers (those having less than 50 employees); economic development with the Port of New Haven is being pursued; a change was made to the Transfer Act in 2019 which now states that an EPA audit must be done within one year, rather than 3 years, reducing the risk for developers; and it is very important that Census 2020 is successful – because CT is a donor state, it stands to lose \$2,900 for each resident not reported. Chair Mirra thanked Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg for this presentation and asked that a copy of this Power Point presentation be sent to the Economic Development Office. Ginny and Barbara left the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

4. **Review of monthly Expenditure Report** – Jim Wolfe noted that not much promotional money has been expended as of December; will this be a problem? Both Tim Ryan and Mark Gingras said no – the bulk of the promotional funds are intentionally set to be spent in the spring. Neither Tim nor Mark thought this account will have much of a balance by the end of the fiscal year.

5. **Committee remarks**

- Marketing

- Report on January 29 meeting – Mark Gingras reviewed the meeting minutes (***copy attached***). Tim Ryan provided additional comments on the Manufacturing Resource Forum held at BYK on January 28. Tim, as well as the other commissioners that attended this event, thought it was very successful and informative.
- Next meeting: February 20 at 8:30 a.m.

- P&Z Liaison

- Update on committee activities – Jim Wolfe said PZC scheduled a workshop for February 4 to talk about the IX and I-5 zones as well as the Town Center. Also, the committee will attend the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 10. Of interest is an application for warehouse/distribution for 425 South Cherry Street. The committee and staff think this application is a good use for that area. **Jim Wolfe made a motion to support, by representation, the application for 425 South Cherry Street; Mark Gingras seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.** Joe Mirra mentioned that this item is first on the agenda and that the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Jim stated he is concerned about the amount of time that it takes to go through the application process and suggested looking into how to speed up the process. Several suggestions were discussed. *It was decided that this committee will meet with staff later this month to discuss the application process.*

- Retention/Incentives –

- Update on committee activities – Rosemarie Preneta reviewed the minutes of the January 23 meeting (***copy attached***).
- Next meeting: April 3 at 8:30 a.m.

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83 6. **Chair's remarks** – Regarding HUBCAP activities, Joe Mirra said two upcoming employment pipelines will take
84 place this month; they are also investigating what pipelines should be held next. Additionally, a survey of the
85 needs of local businesses will be conducted soon; it is hoped that results will be done by the end of March.
86 Commissioners feel these pipelines are very useful. **Mark Gingras made a motion to give \$500 from**
87 **current year EDC funds to HUBCAP to finance expenses for future pipelines; Jim Wolfe seconded the**
88 **motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

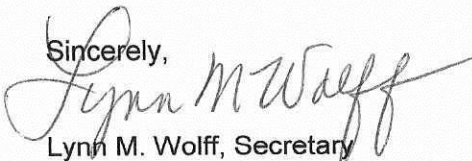
89 Joe Mirra said that work is underway to fill the vacancy for an EDC Alternate; he hopes an appointment will
90 be made shortly.

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92 7. **Staff report/regional matters – January** – Tim Ryan highlighted a few items from the January staff report
93 (***copy attached***): the January 23 half-day event with a group of Brazilian business people went extremely well;
94 Tim plans to appear on the Citizen Mike cable show later this month; and the final layoffs for Philips
95 Responderics, 5 Technology Drive, and sale of the building will take place later this year.

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97 8. **Dates to Remember** – Members were asked to note those items on the agenda.

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99 9. **Other community business** – No report.

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101 **There being no further business, Rosemarie Preneta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.;**
102 **Mark Gingras seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

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104 Sincerely,
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106 Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary
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