

Economic & Community Development Commission

Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2013 7:15 PM
Trumbull Town Hall

Commission: Chairman Scott Wich, Beryl Kaufman, Jack Berg, Ralph Sather, Thomas Ginis, William Haberlin, John Pisinski

Town Staff: Economic & Community Development Director Edward Lavernoich, First Selectman's Chief of Staff Elaine Wang.

Others: Pam Georgas, Scot Kerr, Christine Saccone, all of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center.

Mr. Wich called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM. Mr. Ginis made a motion to approve the January 2, 2012 minutes, which was seconded by Mrs. Kaufman. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0. It was noted that Ms. Zmary was ill and could not attend the meeting.

Mr. Wich noted that Mr. Pisinski was attending his first meeting and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. Pisinski introduced himself and briefly discussed his background. Mr. Wich noted that the list of E&CD Commissioners was being updated. Mr. Lavernoich stated that the Town's website did not provide phone numbers or e-mail addresses for the members of the majority of the Town's boards and commissions. Mr. Wich took an informal poll of the commissioners present as to whether phone numbers and e-mail addresses should remain on the website. It was generally agreed that the commissioner's phone numbers and e-mail addresses be removed, and that Mr. Lavernoich should be the contact for those who access the E&CD Commission page of the website. Mr. Lavernoich stated that he would be in contact with the Town's webmaster.

Mr. Wich noted that the First Selectman had issued a press release regarding Parker Steaks & Scotch. He also noted that the news of the restaurant was widely circulated on various websites and blogs prior to the Commission being informed. He asked Mr. Lavernoich to keep the Commission up to date on developments occurring in the Town. Mr. Lavernoich apologized for not notifying the board of the announcement, and promised to provide this type of information in a timely fashion in the future, at the earliest possible time. Mr. Wich noted that three members terms expired in December, and some have not yet been reappointed. He asked Ms. Wang to do what she could to get the board appointments completed.

Mr. Wich recognized the presence of representatives of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center (TNAC), explaining that they had requested an audience with the E&CD Commission. Pam Georgas, Scot Kerr and Christine Saccone from TNAC made a presentation to the Commission which provided an overview of the organization's legal structure, membership, sponsors,

curriculum, challenges and goals. In particular, it was emphasized that they are looking into securing a permanent location that can create certainty for the organization and its benefactors. They discussed TNAC's ongoing communication with the Education Sub-Committee of the Town Council regarding a permanent location. Several commissioners expressed support for TNAC's program. The TNAC representatives left the meeting at the conclusion of the presentation.

Mr. Wich asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. There were no nominations. He asked whether any members that were present were interested in being nominated themselves. There was no interest expressed. He noted that the Vice Chairman's primary role was to run the commission's meetings in the absence of the Chairman. It was decided that the matter would be brought up at the March meeting, when a greater number of members was expected to be present.

Mr. Wich asked for a report from the marketing Sub-Committee on the Database Project. Mr. Sather asked Mr. Lavernoich to provide the update. Mr. Lavernoich described the meeting that he and Mr. Ginis had with Dr. Philip Lane, a Trumbull resident who is a professor of economics at Fairfield University. Securing an intern who could work on the Database project for school credit was discussed with Dr. Lane, who had expressed enthusiasm for the project and providing an intern. Mr. Lavernoich related that Dr. Lane required a job description for the internship. The timing of the internship was discussed, with a general agreement reached that the intership needed to start quickly for there to be any possibility of course credit for the intern in the current semester. Mr. Lavernoich stated his intention to meet with Mr. Sather and Mr. Ginis in the near future to work on the job description. There was a discussion of the possibility that the Database, if publicly available, could be used by private parties for purposes that could undermine the effectiveness of the Town's use of the database. It was agreed that Ms. Wang and Mr. Lavernoich would confer with one of the Town's attorneys regarding the database's availability to the public.

Mr. Sather left the meeting at approximately 8 PM, as he had previously informed the Commission that he needed to.

Mr. Lavernoich reviewed the Director's Report, highlighting certain projects and development activities where progress had occurred or the status of the project had changed in the last month. He reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission intended to send a draft of the new Plan of Conservation and Development to the Conservation and E&CD Commissions in March for their review and feedback.

Mr. Lavernoich passed around a list of 73 companies that he and Planning & Development Director Jamie Bratt had met with since June. He stated that it was his intention to complete the 100 meetings that were planned, and then establish an ongoing monthly goal of 4-5 business meetings.

Mr. Lavernoich discussed the letter that was drafted to the Town Council regarding the C-PACE Program. He reported that the C-PACE program was not on the Town Council's agenda for February, as he had asked Town Attorney Denis Kokenos to review the agreement that was required by the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority.

The Commission's Goals for 2013 were briefly discussed. Mr. Wich noted that Mr. Sather had sent an e-mail with suggested goals for 2013, with Mr. Wich stating that it was a good list. Mr. Wich asked the commissioners present to give some thought to additional goals. Mr. Wich passed out a list of potential activities that commissioners might get directly involved in during 2013, emphasizing that the list could change or grow. He asked the commissioners to consider involvement in the activities, and to let him or Mr. Lavernoich know what activities interest them. It was reported by Ms. Kaufman that Ms. Zmary was willing to serve on the organizing committee for the business appreciation breakfast, and that Ms. Kaufman would serve with her. There was a brief conversation regarding the type of speaker that might be secured for the breakfast.

No members of the community were in attendance for Community Input.

With no further business, Mr. Haberlin made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Ginis. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.