

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Commissioners: Beryl Kaufman, Shelby LeVino, Eve McGrath, Jeanne Gibbs,
Marshall Marcus

Not Present: Chairman Ralph Sather, Commissioners Evelyn Zmary, Eric Michel,
and Mark Smith

Public: Paul Griffith

Vice Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and presented two new Commissioners – Jeanne Gibbs and Marshall Marcus. They introduced themselves and the Commission did likewise. Ms. Kaufman made a motion to approve the February 5th meeting minutes. Commissioner McGrath accepted the motion, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs and they were unanimously approved.

Ms. Bakalar stated we currently have nine members and the Commission is fully appointed.

Director's Report

Planning Update

Ms. Bakalar announced two ribbon cuttings are planned:

- (1) D-Bat Trumbull (30 Nutmeg Dr., 24,000 sq. ft.) – *Ribbon Cutting on Saturday - March 30th at 10:00 a.m.* They are going to have an all-day event. D-Bat is a state of the art softball and baseball training facility for individuals and teams of various ages.
- (2) Trumbull Tradesman Center (55 Merritt Blvd., 8 acres – 110,000 sq. ft.) – *Ribbon Cutting & Open House on Thursday - March 14th at 9:30 a.m.* This is Trumbull's first shared workspace concept for tradesman. Ms. Bakalar advised if anyone knows a tradesmen who is looking to grow or have overflow needs, to recommend they attend the open house. She added that the Center also offers flexible leasing terms (3 month –10 yrs.)
- (3) Code Ninjas (Madison Village) – is holding an International Women's Celebration – *Friday - March 8th at 6:30 p.m.* Commissioners are to advise the owner if they will be attending.

Business Update

Marissa's - The Marissa's property was purchased by the Mex On Main plaza owners and the project is moving forward. They will be presenting a revised site plan to P&Z for approval as the new building will be smaller than they approval granted in May 2018. The existing building will be demolished. It will feature one main restaurant and retail shops. Dunkin Donuts will be a drive-thru.

Planning

100 Oakview Dr. (housing project by Planet Fitness) – A clubhouse is being built as well as the first building which consists of 12 units. A mini-master plan is also being developed for that part of town and will be presented at the P&Z March/April meeting. Ms. Bakalar advised she will forward a draft to the Commission for their comments.

There was a kick off of the IL-3 master plan (Trumbull Corporate Park) and consultants have been meeting one on one with stake holders. An inventory of the businesses at the corporate park will be undertaken to develop more of an ecosystem within the park.

The Trumbull Mall – J. C. Penney will remain open thru 2019 as far as we have been told to date.

A marketing meeting was held with Ms. Bakalar, Kathy Champion - our volunteer Communications Director and mall staff. The mall will be involved in restaurant week and is committed to a high level of promotion of all events. A monthly communications meeting will be held with mall and town staff.

Grant Update

A well-attended Long Hill Green Community Meeting was held on 2/13 that focused on an update of 5 projects in design. A representative from the Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection was also present. We are doing work at Broadway and will be applying for another grant on April 3rd. Ms. Bakalar advised she is working with Rob Librandi (Land Use Planner) Bill Maurer (Town Engineer) and consultant, Gary Sorge (Stantec) on the grant application.

Stern Village (Hedgehog Rd) – (Community Development Block Grant – Small Cities)

We are submitting a competitive application to fund new heat pumps, air circulators and boilers for the congregate housing building at Stern Village. The application is for approximately \$1M that will be submitted by April 12th. A new consultant has been selected to work with the town and Stern Village.

Restaurant Week – We had our first meeting attended by Ms. Bakalar, Eve McGrath and Julie Heussner. Ms. Bakalar advised we received input from other towns as well as suggestions from our restaurants. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday – March 26th – 5:30 p.m. in Ms. Bakalar's office.

Restaurant week will tentatively be held the week of Sept. 21st – Sept. 28th. Ms. McGrath stated we will accommodate smaller eateries as well as restaurants and also plan to offer student rates for high schools and colleges. Commissioner Marcus suggested an ethnic eating fest to target that group as opposed to fine dining. Ms. Bakalar agreed and noted

that restaurant week will feature different categories: student specials, price fix, 2 for 1, free appetizer etc. and a concise list will be submitted from each restaurant in advance. A kickoff event is being considered.

First Selectman's Annual Address to the Business Community - The Trumbull Chamber of Commerce is hosting this event on Thursday, March 21st and Ms. Bakalar urged everyone to attend. It's a great event to support our First Selectman and business community and she recommended everyone read Ms. Tesoro's testimony against the sales tax increase. Ms. Bakalar advised adding this legislation is not in the best interests for our retail sector.

Mr. LeVino informed there is a state bill that would allow towns to have more input regarding public safety. Ms. Bakalar advised that the First Selectman, State Senator Moore and herself met on 2/14 in Hartford and discussed a list of things we need to work through with DOT.

Opportunity for Community Input - None

There being no further business or community input, Vice Chairman Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., accepted by Ms. McGrath, seconded by Mr. LeVino and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on April 2, 2019 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz