Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2017 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Present: Commissioners Beryl Kaufman, Evelyn Zamary, Jackie Galiani, Christopher Looram, Mike Iaccarino

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Public Comment: Vickie Tesoro – Board of Finance, Dawn Cantafio – Town Council, Nina Boynton – 107 Whitney Avenue, Susan La France – 45 Woolsley Avenue, Shelby Lavino – resident.

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and made a motion to approve the March 7th meeting minutes. Ms. Zamary accepted the motion, seconded by Ms. Kaufman and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman announced that Tom Ginis has resigned from the Commission due to his involvement with family business interests and will be sorely missed.

Ms. Bakalar congratulated Ms. Kaufman who was recently recognized by the Democratic Party for her leadership over the years.

Director's Report

Ms. Bakalar advised she sent out the Electronic Newsletter (4th Edition) and will eventually subscribe to Constant Contact if funding is available. Given the growth in the distribution list, some subscribers cannot receive large email distributions because of firewall settings. Constant Contact can help remedy this problem in part.

Community Center and Municipal Property Update – Ms. Bakalar advised that the First Selectman sent an update out on March 10th. Ms. Bakalar circulated a copy of the update in meeting packages. She noted the Building Committee has recommended the Church Hill Road site for a potential Community Center. The Police Commission has already sent positive approval and the Planning and Zoning Commission will render an opinion of the location as part of the 8-24 process. She noted the Town is in the early stages of considering selling six municipal properties that have gone out of use or will potentially be out of use in the future. A Request for Proposals from brokers (residential or commercial) will be going out next week and due back the end of April. Ms. Bakalar underscored that no deals are in the works for any of the properties. Any interest will be vetted through brokers. The Town would seek to control the redevelopment to be compatible with the area. All potential sales and redevelopment would be subject to Planning and Zoning and Town Council approvals if anything gets to that point in the future.

Trail Update – Construction for the connection from the corner of Tait Road to the Veterans Memorial will start September 2018. Surveying is underway in preparation for construction. As for the trailhead

and connector off Church Hill Road, we are awaiting final approval from DOT and MetroCog on the TAP grant. The leg of the trail across from the Veteran's Memorial to Rocky Hill Road to Bridgeport is under construction and is fully funded.

Ms. Bakalar advised she filed a recreational trails grant with the State Dept. of Environmental Energy & Environmental Protection to use the commuter lot near Christian Heritage as a trailhead with a connector up to the Veteran's Memorial. The project qualified for funding but has been wait listed due to DEEP reductions. They will notify the Town as funding becomes available.

Ms. Bakalar also circulated an article from the Danbury News Times (***Study Shows Economic Vitality of Multi-use-trails – Chris Bosak)*** that cited the importance of trail access for economic growth and how it benefits your local economy. The article identifies a $14/per person investment locally for every trail user.

The Visitors Center (2017 Steep Grant) - Will be filing the reapplication due April 17th and making minor changes to the building to include cameras, alarms, landscape improvements, signage. A meeting with area residents is in the works.

Ms. Bakalar requested in the capital allocation last year $125,000 to hire a firm to conduct a study of the Trumbull Center corridor to make it more pedestrian, bike, traffic and parking friendly. That request was denied by the Board of Finance. Ms. Bakalar distributed a study (Stantec) and noted she recently contacted them to refine a proposal for her resubmission this year. She requested Commission feedback and noted the Stantec revisions show a cost of approximately $60,000 for a smaller scope of work. Ralph Sather requested the entire area be looked at carefully in the planning. Ms. Bakalar informed Commission members that the process if it were to be funded, would include an examination of each parcel in the area for current and future use.

Business Openings/Expansions – The old Cooper Surgical building (41,000 sq. ft.), 120 Corporate Drive, has been leased to 5NPlus which specializes in metals and chemicals for solar panels, pharmaceuticals and digital devices. Other business locations and expansions were highlighted in the newsletter.

Mr. Scinto will be featured in the new video as well as Bill Jennings, President & CEO of Bridgeport Hospital. Frank Borres, our videographer, has filmed the Mall, Madison Village, and Long Hill Green.

Planning Update – Ms. Bakalar noted the desire to undertake a full bicycle master plan for Trumbull. Fairfield has done a similar plan. It will cost approximately $20,000 to do the plan. She has requested funding and support from MetroCog and will be looking for other ways to fund the study.

Long Hill Green Planning – The additional planning for Long Hill Green was funded in February in the amount of 30,000. She noted it would be put out to bid soon and she was completing the RFP. She expects to begin convening business owners and property owners and residents after the end of May.

Ms. Bakalar advised the town has funding ($12,000) to conduct a utility study for Long Hill Green and she will be meeting with Mike Crowley from the UI. Nina Boynton, an area resident, requested safety issues be addressed at Long Hill Green and would like to see the State take a more active involvement in utility placement.

Tax Abatement Meeting – Ms. Bakalar advised that Ms. Zamary, Chairman Sather, Carl Massaro, Jason Marsh, Matt Caron, Maria Pires, Rob Librandi and the First Selectman

met 2 weeks ago to review the ordinance for the tax abatement. Some minor revisions will be made to the ordinance in May. Ms. Bakalar is working on the edits to the application and hopes to finalize the application next week. Several Commission members asked if there were any recent inquiries. Ms. Bakalar noted at least 7-8 inquiries have occurred with at least two groups that were awaiting more guidance from the Town.

Small Business Appreciation Breakfast – Ms. Zamary noted we are awaiting a final date in March. Two dates are pending for October and we awaiting feedback from our keynote speaker. Ms. Bakalar shared an invite has been made to Linda McMahon, SBA Administrator. If she was not available we can look for her regional administrator to come or, the option of a panel discussion may also be considered. Mr. Sather asked folks to keep a backup speaker in mind.

Community Input – Shelly Lavino advised that a 10' trail for bicycles is needed instead of 6'. Ms. Bakalar advised that the town will accommodate 10' wherever feasible. All 6' trails will be marked to disembark.

Vickie Tesoro questioned raising of the height limitations in the corporate park. Ms. Bakalar advised height limitations would be taken up, if the Planning and Zoning Commission felt appropriate, during the regulation rewrite in the near future.

Susan La France inquired if the attachments were posted to the website. Ms. Bakalar noted they are already publically available documents (Community Center and Municipal Facility Update, Newsletter and article from Danbury News Times).

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather requested a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., accepted by Ms. Zamary seconded by Mr. Looram and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
Clerk

cc: D. Wenz
R. Librandi