

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman Ralph Sather

Commissioners: Beryl Kaufman, Evelyn Zamary, Shelby LeVino, Jeanne Gibbs, Marshall Marcus

Not Present: Commissioners Eve McGrath, Eric Michel and Mark Smith

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the May 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Marcus made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Business Update

Senior Discount Program – Ms. Bakalar thanked Mary Isaac (Chair-Senior Commission) who coordinated the Senior Discount Program. It is available at the Town Hall and Senior Center and also featured on Facebook.

Handouts (Hotel Industry) – Ms. Bakalar was invited by Bill Purcell (Chamber President – Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce) to attend a hotel industry meeting at the Trumbull Marriott with attendees from various towns. Ms. Bakalar, a speaker, shared what is happening in Trumbull and addressed the impact of air B&B. The group expressed interest in our new recreational businesses (SeaQuest, Escape Room and Xperiment Virtual Reality). After the event, she connected them with these businesses.

Xperiment Virtual Reality – the ribbon cutting will be on Saturday, 6/15 at 10:00 a.m. It will be featured on our Facebook page and Jordan Grice (CT Post) has indicated he may do an article down the line. The Chamber will be in attendance. Xperiment Virtual Reality is taking the former Dress Barn location at Hawley Lane Mall.

Hawley Lane – One other business will be signing their lease shortly and take a large amount of space across the back hallway of the Mall. The only spaces that will be left available are the former Payless location and 1,500-1800 sq. ft. along the back wall near H&R Block.

Kohl's - will remain open. The Trumbull store is performing well.

Cooper Surgical – has expanded and is adding 8500 sq. ft. on 50 Corporate Dr. as well as adding parking to their existing facility.

Make-A-Wish – should have closed today. They are doing an Adopt-A-Ramp at Exit 11 and have purchased the front of 60 Commerce Drive for their headquarters. They will be occupying approximately 20,000 sq. ft. and had a pre-meeting with our permitting department. They plan to hold Walk- A-Thon's in the corporate park on weekends. Ms. Bakalar stated she has connected them with Unilever, St. Vincent's Special Needs and Educational Playcare. Commissioner Marcus suggested a Residence Inn type of hotel in the corporate park would be beneficial.

SeaQuest –it appears the opening will be delayed due to construction. They have sold a lot of memberships and are also donating membership packages to charities. Ms. Bakalar has connected them with the Kennedy Center and several other non-profits.

Community Development Update

Oakview Drive – The Oakview apartments are under construction. They will start leasing in September with renters moving in December.

The independent living facility on Oakview Drive has begun clearing their lot for construction.

The developer for the former Henderson Lumberyard property has not closed on the property as of yet.

Howard Rappaport is considering adopting the entranceway at Cambridge Drive and Oakview.

UI – we are requesting they put a sidewalk in front of their property. Ms. Bakalar advised they are a partner in the planning study which is due to be finalized this month. She encouraged the Commission to visit that area.

Long Hill Green – the right hand turn lane is under construction.

We will be going out for the construction bids for the patio/parking project soon. The design was recently completed and approved by the state DEEP. There will be one handicapped parking space added.

Marissa's - is in Wetlands tonight. If approved, they will be at the next P&Z meeting on 6/19. We will be presenting our ECDC letter of support.

Planning Update

Trumbull Corporate Park - our IL-3 study has kicked off for the Corporate Park. One on one meetings have been held with individual property owners and some of the major businesses. There will be a group meeting on 6/26 hosted by Unilever for all the corporate park property owners to get together and talk about the vision of the future for the park. Ms. Bakalar invited the Commission and advised an email will be sent with an rsvp. The meeting starts at 11:00 and lunch will be provided.

Grant Update – we are currently working on a grant for a trailhead at the commuter lot (near Christian Heritage) with a trail connector up to Twin Brooks. We filed the pre-application and will know next week if we are picked as one of the regional applicants. If so,

we will then go for the full application in September. Ms. Bakalar credited her talented intern, Sarah Henderson (Sacred Heart Masters student) in assisting her in the grant process. Another intern will be starting on 6/19 who is a Trumbull resident with an interest in government, legal work and land use. Ms. Bakalar commended the excellent work and capabilities of all our interns.

Event Update

Restaurant Week – we have our letter to approach restaurants drafted, we are securing sponsorships and have finalized our form for people to sign up. We are currently working on our logo and getting the web page built in July. Jeff Bishop from the Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Bakalar will be going out to restaurants this week and our team will do the follow-up. Ms. Bakalar will present the package at our next meeting to the Commission.

Katherine, the marketing person at the mall, will do the initial outreach to the Food Court and the mall restaurants and we will do the follow-up.

Marisa's Letter of Support – Ms. Bakalar redrafted it and the welcomed suggestions from the Commission. She will draft a final revision and wants to file it this week. Mr. Marcus will be attending the P&Z meeting on 6/19 and Ms. Bakalar encouraged the commissioners to attend.

Chairman Sather added he will abstain from signing the letter since he has done business with Mr. Cerreta in the past. Commissioner Marcus made a motion that any commissioner that who would like to add their name to this letter be allowed to do so and Chairman Sather seconded the motion. Mr. LeVino stated he would like to add his name to the letter.

Sustainable Committee Group – Mr. LeVino

Mr. LeVino advised they continue to meet every week and are making progress triaging what needs to be done. Mr. LeVino met with the Arts Commission to try to encourage them to pick up some activities related to the Sustainable CT project.

Ms. Bakalar stated there is a service coming to the mall where you can cash in your old cell phones. The service will be at a kiosk. The phones, which have sustainable components, will be refurbished and put back into the market.

Monroe Bus Tour - Ms. Bakalar complimented Ken Kellogg, Town of Monroe's First Selectman, for doing a fantastic job. She recently attended their luncheon and bus tour of the town.

Opportunity for Community Input - None

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather requested a motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m., accepted by Commissioner LeVino, seconded by Commissioner Marcus and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2019 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka

ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz