

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Electronic Meeting-Zoom

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held via videoconferencing on October 6, 2020.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Members Present: Ralph Sather - Chairman, Beryl Kaufman - Vice Chairman, Evelyn Zarny - Secretary, Eve McGrath, Marshall Marcus, Shelby LeVino and Karen DeVecchio.

Members Absent: Eric Michel

Also Present: Rina Bakalar - Director of Economic and Community Development
Vicki Tesoro - First Selectman
Madeline Marsh - Intern
William Chin - Director of Information Technology

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner LeVino asked that the spelling of his name using a capital "V" be amended in the minutes. A motion to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes with the correction was made by Commissioner Kaufman and seconded by Commissioner LeVino. Eve McGrath and Marshall Marcus abstained. Chairman Sather, Commissioner Kaufman and Commissioner LeVino voted in favor. The motion carried.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Sather reported that Jeanne Gibbs had resigned to pursue other volunteer activities. He thanked her for her service and applauded her creativity and contributions to the Commission.

Chairman Sather then introduced Karen DeVecchio as a newly sworn in member of the Commission, taking the vacancy left by former Commissioner Mark Smith. He reviewed Commissioner DeVecchio's extensive experience with her current employer Munger Construction, the BRBC and the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce.

Director's Report

Ms. Bakalar noted the Grand Re-opening of the Gulf Gas Station scheduled for October 8 at 1:00 PM. She encouraged Commission members to attend if possible and noted that one of the owners is a Trumbull resident. She reviewed the virtual Town Hall on Public Infrastructure and Private Development Projects that was held on September 15th.

Ms. Bakalar discussed the Celebrate Local efforts underway. This year-long concept is to help promote buying local at Trumbull restaurants and establishments. The campaign includes social media promotion, Small Business video tours which the First Selectman has scheduled, and the promotion of restaurants. She introduced Commissioner McGrath and Intern Madeline Marsh who reported on their outreach to restaurants and efforts to drive more business to them. They explained their efforts to engage non-profits, town departments and civic groups to support restaurants. They are marketing to their members and encouraging them to patronize a Trumbull restaurant during a designated week. Commissioner McGrath noted the exceptional efforts by Trumbull High School Intern Madeline Marsh. Chairman Sather noted the need to do more to support the businesses. He would like further discussion on dressing the Jonathan Trumbull Statue again to signal support to businesses. Commissioner Marcus noted he did not feel we should do this on a regular basis. The discussion evolved into the suggestion that we host a meeting with three members to discuss further marketing activities. Ms. Bakalar will schedule a discussion.

Ms. Bakalar reported another virtual Town Hall Meeting on Job Opportunities would be held on Thursday, October 29th. First Selectman Tesoro noted this event would be held in the evening based on feedback from some members of the public. The event will begin at 7 PM. Several employers with openings will participate as well as other guests.

Phase 3 Re-opening is slated for Thursday, October 8th. Ms. Bakalar reviewed some of the changes briefly and noted Channel 12 news was featuring Prime 111.

Ms. Bakalar noted the approval of 260 units of market rate, luxury apartments at Westfield Trumbull Mall. The Residences on Main will consist of 1 and 2 bedroom units. Groundbreaking is expected in April of 2021.

In terms of grants, Ms. Bakalar noted that we have not yet heard back on the STEAP grant submission for the Veterans and First Responder Center or the COVID-CDBG Small Cities grant for food aid through our local restaurants to vulnerable and quarantined residents.

Interviews are underway to fill the vacant clerk position. At present, Ms. Bakalar is serving as clerk to the Commission.

Other Business: Commissioner Marcus explained to the Commission that Trumbull has achieved 100 percent participation for the Census. This is up significantly from ten years ago. He noted that this can help drive more federal funding.

Commissioner LeVino had no new information on Sustainable CT. The application is pending review at the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Chairman Sather noted that the November meeting would be a zoom meeting.

Commissioner Kaufman made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Marcus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rina Bakalar
ECD Director

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz