

**EAST HARTFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 1, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Economic Development Commission was called to order at **6:06 p.m.** on **Wednesday, April 1, 2009** by Commissioner Marilyn Pet, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

EAST HARTFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Present:

Marilyn Pet, Chair
Debra Arrieta
John Ryan (arrived during item 5)
Susan Skowronek (arrived during item 6)
Travis Simpson

Absent:

Miguel Franco
Pat Harmon
Devorah Johnson
Barbara-Ann Rossi

Others in Attendance:

Aya Beckles, Economic Development Specialist
Jeanne Webb, Director of Development

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Business Visitations
 - i) The visit to the Popcorn Movie Poster Company was a success and the owner is extremely satisfied with the results of the open dialogue that has occurred.
- b) Small Business Outreach – Small Business Council
 - i) Ms. Webb suggested defining a “small business” as having 1-5 employees and to create a council after having the Commission review a list of said businesses.
- c) Joint Meeting with Redevelopment
 - i) Ms. Pet asked that Ms. Webb schedule a joint meeting between to the two agencies to discuss the goals and expectations of each. This will possibly be done sometime in June 2009.
- d) CEDF – Main Street Improvement Program
 - i) Ms. Webb met with the EHCC Executive Board, Pratt & Whitney, Goodwin College, and Riverside Healthcare to discuss moving forward to fund small projects along the Main Street corridor. Mr. Simpson suggested finding smaller projects to be funded by smaller businesses/schools/civic groups.

4) NEW BUSINESS

- a) International Arts Bazaar – Collaboration between Chamber and EDC – July

- i) Ms. Webb is still waiting on the arrival dates for the Half Moon ship. She also contacted the Health Department for information on food vendors. Ms. Pet spoke with the Art League and the Fine Arts Commission, both of who are very interested in participating. There was a question of insurance, and if they were covered under the town's umbrella.
- b) Duraflex – Business Visitation
 - i) Ms. Webb met with the owner who informed her that operation is typically over by 4:00p.m. The Commission suggested a few alternatives: Aldi's, CocaCola, BKM, Oakleaf, PetSmart, and Siperstein's Paint Products.
- c) Chamber of Commerce Board Retreat
 - i) The EHCC held a full day retreat discussing many different topics, including the fact that they're having a hard time meeting their expenses. They began a new finance committee, networking sub-committee, and a business education committee, as well as elected a new treasurer.
- d) Cable Access Regulations
 - i) Mr. Ryan reported that the money allocated for cable access channels must be used on the station alone (maintenance, content, etc). The Commission discussed doing a possible business showcase piece.
- e) Public Access Show – Predatory practices foreclosed properties
 - i) This will be done to make homeowners aware of the different alternatives, good and bad, being offered to during these difficult financial times.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) March 4, 2009

MOTION by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Ryan to approve minutes
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

6) BILLS LIST

- a) \$100.00 – Clerk

MOTION by Ms. Skowronek, seconded by Ms. Arrieta
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

7) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Arrieta
APPROVED at 7:22p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Currey
Clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Mayor
Development Department