

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes for Monday, June 1, 2015 Meeting

Windham Town Hall, 1st floor Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

Voting Members Present: Bill Hettinger, Pam DeVivo, Robert Horrocks, John McCommas **Voting Members Absent:** Ryan Jacobs **Voting Members Excused:** Victor Funderburk **Guests:** Jim Turner, Willimantic Whitewater Partnership **Staff Present:** James V. Bellano, Windham Town Director of Economic Development; Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** Demetrio Ricciardone, Savings Institute

- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Hettinger called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.
- II. **Citizens & Delegations Community Comments/Questions** – None.
- III. **Review of Minutes** – J. McCommas MOVED to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2015 regular meeting of the Windham Economic Development Commission. R. Horrocks SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously.
- IV. **Guest Speaker** – J. Turner spoke about the current status of the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership park on Bridge Street. Within the next year, they will manage contamination remediation. The group expects to hear the results of their National Endowment for the Arts grant application--a call to artists for designing the park-- in July.
- V. **Economic Development Director's Report** – J. Bellano reported that he is settled in to the office and spoke about recent development in town. There is work being done on the Economic Development Commission and Economic Development Dept. web pages. Consensus of the Commission is to tighten up the Commission web page now that there is a strong Economic Development page in development and add photos of our downtown to the page. Commissioners want their phone numbers on the commission web page.

VI. New Business

1. Downtown Parking Ideas

Discussion about parking issues in downtown, including potential hurdles in implementing paid parking. The parking garage process is at the stage of needing an operations plan. Matt Hart and Cynthia Van Zelm are willing to speak on pay parking garage management. Chair Hettinger would also like to see input from folks in Norwich, where parking is free. Consensus of Commission is to hold a special meeting later in June to hear from these folks.

VII. Old Business

1. Downtown Business Council

R. Horrocks reported that the next meeting 6/15 at Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association building. The next step for the group is to craft a mission statement and looking at other councils for examples of ways to focus purpose. Discussion about welcoming new businesses with publicity, a visit from the Mayor, Facebook post, ribbon cutting, etc.

2. Arts & Eats

No update.

3. My Windham Projects

No update.

4. Discussion of RFP on 804 Main Street (former Tin Tsin lot) and possible recommendation to Council

J. Bellano reported there is one RFP response, from George Hernandez, for housing, offices, and retail with parking, a pavilion, and access to Riverside Drive. Discussion of RFP.

VIII. Chairman's Report

B. Hettinger reported that there will be a meeting coming up later this week re: business incubation.

IX. Other Reports/Correspondence/Announcements

R. Horrocks noted the weekend upcoming is Victorian Days Weekend.

X. Citizen's & Delegations Comments/Questions

D. Ricciardone says fundraising needs to be up at the new arts center at ECSU.

XI. **Adjourn** – Mr. McCommas MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Horrocks SECONDED. Chair

Hettinger adjourned the meeting at 9:34PM

Respectfully submitted by D. Noll, Clerk.