

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes for Monday, June 15, 2015 Meeting

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

Voting Members Present: Bill Hettinger, Pam DeVivo, Robert Horrocks, Victor Funderburk (arr. 7:12) **Voting Members Absent:** Ryan Jacobs **Voting Members Excused:** John McCommas **Guests Present:** Robert Mills, Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC); Cynthia Van Zelm, Executive Director, Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. **Staff Present:** James V. Bellano, Windham Town Director of Economic Development; Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** James Flores

- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Hettinger called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.
- II. **Citizens & Delegations Community Comments/Questions** – J. Flores spoke about a need for money being invested in public transportation after 5pm rather than building a parking garage.
- III. **Presentation and Discussion of Public Parking Garage Operations** – Chair Hettinger offered a context for the proposed downtown parking garage project. The project is at a stage where we need a business plan in place to move forward. (V. Funderburk arr.). R. Mills presented on the parking garages in Norwich. Discussion about costs of the Norwich project, which are not covered by usage; cost of parking for users-- free to shoppers up to 4 hours with various higher fees for long-term users; security-- none dedicated; usage— in intermodal center; monitoring--one lot uses ticket, the others use parking monitors, no meters; intermodal model-- pedestrian, automobiles, and public transit buses; and parking on Main Street-- up to 2 hours free. Meters were initially installed, but were not maintained, so Norwich eventually removed them and now uses an electronic parking system. C. Van Zelm presented on the parking in Storrs Center, a ground-up, holistically developed downtown which includes a parking lot offering the first 2 hours free; on-street parking for 30 minutes in the interior yards and two hour parking in the exterior roads; and a garage/intermodal center. A large portion of the parking spaces in the garage/intermodal center are dedicated to the housing units in Storrs Center. For visitors, the first two hours of parking are free, after which parking is charged at a rate of a dollar an hour and is monitored using a ticketing system. Businesses can hire the parking monitoring company, Laz, to help with enforcement in dedicated lots at their strip malls. Discussion with guests about an appropriate model for downtown Willimantic. Discussion amongst Commission about what they took away from the presentations.

IV. Citizen's & Delegations Comments/Questions

J. Flores spoke about the need to prioritize improve transportation in the town.

- V. **Adjourn** – P. DeVivo MOVED to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by R. Horrocks. Chair Hettinger adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by D. Noll, Clerk.