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DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

## TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

740 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

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### East Hartford Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

East Hartford Community Cultural Center, Room 105

Microsoft Teams

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rosario called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

##### Members Present:

Veronica Rosario, Chair  
Joelle Murchison, Vice Chair  
Erwin Hurst  
Anita Morrison  
John Morrison  
Angie Parkinson

##### Members Absent:

Jim Arsenault, Jr.

##### Guests Present:

Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

Chair Rosario, Mr. Hurst, and Ms. Morrison stated that they have been reappointed to new terms on the commission.

#### 2. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COLLABORATION

Mr. Daniels recapped the ongoing monthly Small Business Support Hours at the East Hartford Public Library. He will send promotional materials on the event for the commission members to share.

Chair Rosario discussed co-hosting a networking event with the Chamber of Commerce, to similar to their monthly morning networking events, but taking place in the early evening, and with a special focus on inviting East Hartford's small businesses. The commissioners discussed holding this event in lieu of the next regularly scheduled EDC meeting on June 22. Chair Rosario will work to identify a location.

#### 3. BUSINESS VISITS

Chair Rosario suggested Dilligence Training on Park Ave. as a location for a future visit. Mr. Hurst said he had recently visited the business and was given a tour of the facility. Mr. Daniels will reach out to the business to arrange for a visit.

#### **4. BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT WITH CHARITABLE EVENTS**

Chair Rosario suggested exploring the possibility of greater engagement between the East Hartford business community and local fundraisers. Commission members noted that there are already many events, so it may make sense to encourage participation in existing events rather than to advocate for the creation of new ones. Mr. Daniels said that the Chamber of Commerce is involved in some fundraising events for local causes.

#### **5. GOALS FOR 2023**

Chair Rosario asked the commissioners if they have any goals for the commission to work on over the course of the upcoming year. Ms. Murchison and Mr. Hurst suggested that the commission revisit helping to improve contact lists of businesses in town. Chair Rosario suggested promoting resources such as the Small Business Support Hours to local community colleges who may have students wanting to learn more about starting businesses.

#### **6. DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Daniels said that the Development Department now has a full-time Town Planner, Carlene Shaw. He updated the commissioners on ongoing projects including the Silver Lane Plaza, Concourse Park Apartments, Rentschler Field Logistics Center, and Church Corners Inn. He discussed the ARPA Small Business Assistance Program, and Chair Rosario shared a press release about businesses who have been awarded grants. Mr. Daniels noted that the Conoco is now open at the corner of Main Street and Naubuc Avenue, and Chair Rosario noted that Dottie's Sea Moss Wellness Bar held a grand opening event on Main Street.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Parkinson moved to adjourn.  
Mr. Hurst seconded the motion.  
All voted in favor, none voted opposed  
Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels  
Economic Development Coordinator