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DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

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East Hartford Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

East Hartford Town Hall, Welling Conference Room

Microsoft Teams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rosario called the meeting to order at 5:52 PM.

Members Present:

Veronica Rosario, Chair
Brennden Colbert
Erwin Hurst
Anita Morrison
Angie Parkinson

Members Absent:

Joelle Murchison, Vice Chair
Jim Arsenault, Jr.
John Morrison

Guests Present:

Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hurst moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022, meeting.

Mr. Colbert seconded the motion.

All voted in favor, none voted opposed

Motion Passed

3. BROCHURE OF RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

Chair Rosario presented an updated draft of the brochure. It presents descriptions and contact information for resources such as the Chamber of Commerce, SCORE, and SBDC. It will have basic steps for people interested in starting a business in East Hartford. The plan is to have a final draft ready by the next meeting. Chair Rosario plans to translate the brochure into Spanish once it is finalized. The EDC can use its budget to print copies of the brochure if it chooses.

4. FOOD TRUCKS

Mr. Daniels presented a flyer for businesses with basic information about the Town's new food truck regulations. They allow food trucks, which must be licensed by the Health Department, to locate on portions of certain streets including East River Drive, Governor Street, and Prestige Park Road. They also can arrange to appear at special events in Town Parks or on private property. The flyer directs vendors to the Town's website for more information. EDC members are encouraged to share the flyer with food truck and restaurant owners.

5. ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT

Chair Rosario proposed creating a program to share information about small business and entrepreneurship with local high school students. She said business owners may be able to visit the Connectors program at the schools. Mr. Hurst will collaborate with Chair Rosario after she contacts the schools. He has been involved in running similar programs in correctional facilities.

6. BUSINESS VISITS

Commissioners visited Rebel Dog Coffee Co. and Roma Restaurant earlier in the year. Cream Time, VRSim, and Hatillo were discussed as possibilities for future visits. The commissioners discussed Roma and Hatillo as possibilities for the location of the joint December meeting with the Redevelopment Agency in addition to previous locations Carmine's, The One Wood Pub, and Savvi's.

7. DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Daniels discussed the ARPA Small Business Assistance Program and said that the first applicants have received their approvals. The Concourse Park Apartments at the former Showcase Cinemas site and the Rentschler Field Logistics Center have continued moving through the approval process. The Redevelopment Agency held a Public Hearing to hear public comment on the Town's consideration of acquiring property by eminent domain in accordance with the Silver Lane Redevelopment Plan. Bailey's Medical has purchased the former Goodwin University downtown campus and will operate a pharmacy and medical supply store there. M&T Bank opened in the former Farmington Bank and People's United Bank location at the corner of Main Street and Governor Street. It is designated as a multicultural and multilingual branch.

The Russell Restaurant hopes to open by the end of September. The Sunoco station on Silver Lane hopes to open by the end of November. The approved Popeyes Restaurant on Main Street is revising its traffic pattern before it proceeds. The former Squeaky's Laundromat needs to resolve building permit issues before its renovations can resume. The hotel at 363 Roberts Street needs approvals from Planning & Zoning and building permits before it can move forward with renovations.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels
Economic Development Coordinator