

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

DATE: Wednesday March 9, 2016
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Town Council

MINUTES

Present

Augusto Russell
Bob Reeve
Dan Kleinman
Ron Bernard- by phone

Absent

Joe Howard
John Karwoski
Brian Connolly

Staff

Rose Ponte

a. Call to Order

a. Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm

b. Public Comment

a. n/a

c. Reading of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the January 13, 2016 minutes (Kleinman / Reeve).

i. **Approved unanimously.**

d. Economic Development Director's Report

Rose reviewed the monthly economic development activity report and building permit report.

a. **The Spring Business Breakfast** will feature Chris Hyers, Executive Director of Health, Marketing Communications. There is a possibility that we can hold the breakfast at UCONN Health's new renovated facilities but it will depend on their construction timeline. The commissioners chose to recognize George's Restaurant, in business since 1977.

b. The EDC Budget Update

Rose will present the EDC budget to Town Council on March 10. Discussion last month raised concerns about the benefits of the MetroHartford Alliance and FVVA memberships. Rose will be meeting with Nancy Anstey, Executive Director of FVVA to discuss how we can best use the Town's membership. A letter, authored by Kathy Eagen, will be sent to MetroHartford Alliance requesting an annual report detailing benefits of our membership.

c. Business Retention and Expansion IEDC Conference

Rose attended the IEDC course in Baltimore she explained the course was particularly valuable since it covered how a department with a small staff can manage a successful business retention program.

- e. **Planners Report**
No comment

- f. **New Business**
 - a. **DECD Regional Forums**
DECD is holding regional forums throughout the state. Rose will be attending a number of them.

 - b. **UVIA Spring Newsletter Sponsorship**
A motion was made and seconded to sponsor the UVIA spring Business insert for \$1000. (Reeve/Kleinman).
 - i. Approved unanimously

 - c. **Business Breakfast Donation Recommendation**
Mr. Kevin Ray, from Deming Insurance called Rose to suggest that a \$5.00 donation to The Holiday Decorating Program should be charged at every Business Breakfast. The nominal charge could raise a few thousand dollars towards the annual Beautify Farmington Program. Overall Commissioners saw the benefit but were reluctant to make the \$5.00 mandatory. Instead Rose will include information about the Flower Program at every breakfast and a donation basket will be made available at every breakfast.

 - d. **Digital Display Offer.**
Robert Perry, former owner of Fast Signs has sold his store and offered to sell to the EDC a large Electronic Display. Commissioners felt that it would be difficult for us to move or store the display so they declined to entertain the offer. Rose will contact Mr. Perry and let him know of the commission's decision.

 - g. **Adjournment**
 - a. A motion was made and seconded (Kleinman/ Reeve) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm
 - i. **Approved unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Ponte
Economic Development Director
CC: Economic Development Commissioners