

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

DATE: Wednesday June 8, 2016
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Town Council

MINUTES

Present

Augusto Russell
Bob Reeve
Dan Kleinman
Ron Bernard
John Karwoski

Absent

Brian Connolly
Joe Howard

Staff

Rose Ponte

a. Call to Order

a. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

b. Public Comment

a. n/a

c. Reading of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the May 11, 2016 minutes (Reeve / Kleinman).

1. Approved unanimously,

d. Economic Development Director's Report

Rose reviewed the monthly economic development activity report. Commissioner did not have any questions.

a. Annual Goals and Accomplishments

Rose reviewed the annual goals and accomplishments for the 2015-2016 fiscal years.

1. All indicators demonstrate that Farmington continues to be the economic leader in the Hartford Region.
2. The EDC department continues to make many connections throughout the business community, visiting over 150 businesses during the last year.
3. Rose emphasized the important collaboration that has been developed between her office and the planning department. . Many developers and businesses relocating to Farmington have voiced their appreciation of the process and the ease of doing business in Farmington.
4. For 2016-2017 The EDC office will continue with its outreach services, update the marketing materials will be updated, and the collaboration with the planning department will continue.

Commissioners Kleinman asked that his comments be included in the minutes. He has been part of the commission for a long time and explained how the Economic Development Department has evolved over the years. Courtney Hendrickson, the former Economic Development Director, did a wonderful job of elevating the department by implementing best practices and tracking economic statistics to show Farmington's strength in the region as well as areas to improve. Rose has also continued to elevate the role of the Economic Development Department as evidenced by the collaboration with the Planning Department, the growth in the breakfast's attendance, the expansion of the Beautify Farmington Program and the increased business visitations that she conducts yearly. Rose has brought her own vision to the role and has elevated it further.

Commissioner Reeve also echoed Commissioner's Kleinman's point that the local process for business expansion and project approvals is more collaborative and has been well received by the business community.

b. Fall Business Breakfast

Rose contacted Farmington Bank and they approved inviting the Mormon Temple organizers to speak at the Fall Breakfast. The Breakfast will take place on September 14. For registrations the *Eventbrite* platform will continue to be used. Although one complaint was received from an attendee from the spring breakfast, the ease of the registrations, increased promotional opportunity, and easier nametag production were all factors that makes *Eventbrite* a better option.

e. **Town Council Liaison Report**

None discussed

f. **New Business- None discussed.**

g. **Adjournment**

a. A motion was made and seconded (Kleinman/ Reeve) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

i. **Approved unanimously**

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