

Minutes of the Hamden Economic Development Commission
March 9, 2010

Present: T. DelGrego, L. Lee, T. Sacchetti, Chairperson, A. Inzero, R. DePodesta, B. Zambrano,
N. Schatz, S. Rolnick

Not Present: D. Giannini, D. DeNicola

Also Present: D. Kroop, G. Vasil

1. Call to Order

T. Sacchetti, Chairperson called the meeting to order @ 5:30 P.M.

2. Reading & Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting

T. Sacchetti asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2010 meeting. T. DelGrego made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2010, B. Zambrano seconded, passed unanimously.

T. Sacchetti announced that Ricky Baltimore resigned and he welcomed our new Commission member Anthony Inzero.

3. Report of the Director

- Dale talked about the 3-year plan budget
- The Mayor will be coming to our May meeting
- Richard Pearce also wants to come to speak to us
- Ginny Kolowski is the new RGP director and she will be coming soon to speak to us

4. Old Business

- Dale spoke to the Vice President of T.D. Bank and according to him it is too late to change the closing of their branch on lower Dixwell near Putnam, they are trimming back. B. Zambrano mentioned that they are concentrating on the Fairfield County area.
- Our new website is up and running (www.hamden.ct.com) we will have a training session on Thursday so we will know how to update & cut & paste new articles to the website by a WebSolutions representative and we will be able to track users
- Bar-Plate is definitely moving to Hamden, we approved their benefits last month
- A company from Milford is very interested in moving to Hamden
- We will be going to all their banks to cease assets on the micro-loan that is in default. There might be fraud involved. B. Zambrano asked if we can file a suspicious activity report and then turn it over to the FBI & IRS. A discussion ensued on the situation.

5. New Business: Tax Incentive application-review & approval

- The Chamber's Business Expo is April 13th from 11 A.M. To 4 P.M. and there will be a Governors Forum from 9 to 10:30 A.M. with the candidates who are running for Governor.
- The Mayor's tax incentive committee approved the Dancer's Shop for a \$1,000 grant and 100% permit fee waiver. They will be moving from the Costume Bazaar building on State Street in New Haven to the old Markman T.V. site on State Street near Ridge Road. T. DelGrego questioned why there were two different grant amounts, \$2,000 to \$1,000. Dale stated that the Mayor's tax incentive committee decided that \$1,000 was sufficient for the amount of money they were going to invest. A

discussion ensued on the amount of the grant and the project. T. Sacchetti asked for a motion to approve the incentives with a \$1,000 grant and 100% permit waiver, B. Zambrano made a motion to accept the benefits as stated, N. Schatz seconded, passes unanimously. They are also eligible for a \$1,500 sign grant through our CDBG program.

- Whitney Center is moving forward with their project and they have been named Corp. Citizen of the Year by Business New Haven Magazine.

6. Project Updates: Redevelopment, Openings, Etc.

- Dale mentioned that his contract expires June 30, 2010, he would like to have a new contract before that because there might be a problem with funding 100% of his salary without one and with a contract they have to pay him. He asked the Commissioners to support this with a letter to the Mayor. T. DelGrego wants to ask the Mayor why they don't fund our salary 100%. A discussion ensued on Dale's salary and contract.

- Valley Green a new wholesale Fertilizer and Supplies business will move into 87 Rosotto Drive. B. Zambrano asked if we can put that on the web-site, Dale stated that we can put all new businesses on.

- Petco is moving in May to the old Sears site.

- Shop-rite is taking over Shaw's in the Hamden Plaza. The Plaza has problems with vacancies.

- Home Goods is not moving into the old Toys R Us building.

- L. Lee said she heard that Savers a high end Goodwill is moving into Toys R Us, Dale said that is will check it out.

- Highwood Square is moving along, the 3rd floor is going up and a lot of other things are happening.

- The contract signing for the Dadio Farm Road will be soon. International Distributions lot is for sale as well as there building where Turtle & Hughes was.

- The streetscape project at the corners of Dixwell and Concord will begin soon, the funds are from the HUD sidewalk and commercial loan program. The owner of B & B Deli called to asked if anything can be done at that corner. It took awhile but it will be done soon.

- T. Sacchetti asked what was going on with Goodrich St. Dale stated that it is a nasty property. DEP started about a month ago, it will cost \$1.2 million just to clean it out. A discussion ensued on the project. He also asked if there is anything new with the Himmel Bros. Site, Dale stated no.

- A discussion ensued on different projects in Town and on some of ;the problems coming up with the new Zoning Regulations.

7. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss T. Sacchetti asked for a motion to adjourn at 6:20 P.M. T. DelGrego moved to adjourn at 6:20 P.M., seconded by R. DePodesta, passed unanimously.