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4 **Economic Development Commission**
5 **Regular Meeting Minutes**
6 **December 5, 2011**
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9 **Members Present:** Richard Nunn, Chairman
10 Gary Fappiano
11 Mark Gingras
12 Jim Wolfe
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14 **Members Absent:** Tom Collette
15 Joseph Mirra, Vice-Chairman
16 Rosemarie Preneta
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18 **Others Present:** John LeTourneau, Councilor
19 Doreen DeSarro, Bus. Recruiter
20 Don Roe, Ec. Dev. Coord.
21 Lynn Wolff, Secretary
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23 Chairman Dick Nunn called the meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:50 p.m.
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- 25 1. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes, dated November 7, 2011** – Mark Gingras made a motion to
26 approve the November 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes with the deletion of “briefly at” from line 55;
27 Jim Wolfe seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.
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- 29 2. **Review of Expenditure Report 2011-12** – Don Roe said there is nothing to report on the October statement.
30 Staff is making an effort to keep spending on a more even pace so that not all expenses fall at the end of a
31 fiscal year and hope this is reflected in the December report.
32
- 33 3. **Staff Report – November** – Doreen DeSarro distributed and reviewed the November report (*copy attached*).
34 Some of the items mentioned:
- 35 • Doreen thanked the EDC for helping to cover the booth at the Greater New Haven Expo. Out of the
36 50 or so who participated in the raffle, five leads were brought in. Jim Wolfe said he and Joe Mirra
37 felt that this was a great expo—much more productive for the EDC than some other expos the in
38 which the EDC has participated. Doreen agreed, saying that this expo caters to businesses in the
39 entire region, which makes for an interesting show.
 - 40 • Doreen is working with the New Haven Manufacturing Association on a tour of Holo-Krome; the tour
41 is scheduled for spring 2012.
 - 42 • The EDC discussed the very successful Downtown Stroll held this last weekend. John LeTourneau
43 said he hopes to convince the merchants to stay open even longer next year; he felt many people
44 would have continued to shop after 8:30 p.m. Jim Wolfe wondered if WCI should try to coordinate the

45 stroll with "Small Business Saturday"; John LeTourneau agreed that the Downtown should try to
46 capitalize on this event.

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48 **4. Review and Possible Action on 2012 Meetings Schedules for the EDC and its Subcommittees**

49 **Jim Wolfe made a motion to accept the meeting schedules as drafted, with one change in the**
50 **Retention and Incentive Subcommittee schedule (change March 23, 2012 to March 22). Mark Gingras**
51 **seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

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53 **5. Subcommittee Reports**

54 • **Marketing** – Mark Gingras reported that when the Subcommittee met they reviewed the drafted
55 timeline and still feel the EDC is on schedule. Also discussed was membership with REX; the Subcommittee
56 plans to bring its recommendation to the EDC on this issue soon. The Subcommittee also met with Scott
57 Hanley, GTV, and discussed how to advertise the Town using the media. This will be discussed further.

58 • **P&Z Liaison** – Jim Wolfe said the Subcommittee had a meeting with the Water & Sewer Division
59 concerning the addition of proposed language to the I-5 regulations. The Subcommittee doesn't see any
60 problems with it from the EDC's standpoint; all items suggested protect our aquifer/watershed. The
61 Subcommittee wants to go before the Planning & Zoning Commission in support of this; does the EDC
62 agree? **Mark Gingras made a motion that the EDC supports the changes to the I-5 regulations as**
63 **submitted by the Water & Sewer Division and requests that the P&Z Liaison Subcommittee represent**
64 **this vote of support at the December Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. Gary Fappiano**
65 **seconded this motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

66 • **Retention/Incentives** – Gary Fappiano said that the Subcommittee will be meeting soon. (He needs
67 to reschedule the meeting set for December 8 and will contact staff on Tuesday to change the meeting date.)
68 One item that will be discussed is possible expansion the Downtown Electric Incentive Program (DEIP).
69 Members discussed the current program and how it might be changed. Some ideas to be considered are:
70 should the boundaries for the incentive be enlarged, should the term of the incentive be increased from 2
71 years and/or should the amount of the incentive be increased? Doreen DeSarro said that the DEIP expires
72 on December 31; the request to either continue or change this program needs to come from WCI. Doreen
73 will make sure she contacts Liz at WCI and remind her of this upcoming deadline. Dick Nunn said that the
74 PUC meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month (which is the 6th and 20th for December). Doreen said
75 that the Subcommittee usually does an analysis of the program and felt this should be done before any
76 changes are proposed. She asked Dick if he would try to get a feel for whether or not the PUC would
77 consider *any* changes to this program. If the PUC is totally against any changes, then WCI should just ask
78 that it be continued as is. Dick said he will broach the subject with the PUC and get back to Doreen.

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80 **6. Regional Matters**

81 • **Central CT Alliance for Economic Development** – Doreen DeSarro said the latest e-newsletter was
82 sent out through e-mail and that Wallingford should be the feature story in the next one.

- 83 • **Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce** – No report.
- 84 • **REX** – No report.
- 85 • **Workforce Alliance** – No report.

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87 **7. Community Involvement**

88 John LeTourneau asked whether staff had heard anything about a new 100,000 sf building on Research
89 Parkway. No one heard about this but *Doreen DeSarro will contact the Planning & Zoning Office to see if*
90 *they have heard about this.*

91 Don Roe told the EDC about an upcoming session hosted by The Hartford Area Business Economics; the
92 Guest Speaker, Julia Dennet of the Federal Reserve, will speak on “CT’s Skill Gap and Aging Workforce”. If
93 anyone is interested, please let him know.

94 The New Haven Manufacturers Association provided a flyer about the University of CT Tech Park being
95 developed. Is there anything we should do with this?

96 Dick Nunn asked about EDC attendance at the upcoming Mayor’s State of the Town in January. It
97 appears that most members plan to attend.

98 Members were reminded about some of the items under the “Dates to Remember”.

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100 **There being no further business, Jim Wolfe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.; Mark**
101 **Gingras seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

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Sincerely,

Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary

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Attachment