

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
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*Vice Chairman*  
Ralphine Siggars Ford  
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Gregg Seccombe  
*Treasurer*

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 7:00 PM

The Economic Development Commission held its Regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2012.  
The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call:

Vincent Scarlata	present
James Hooker	absent
Greg Seccombe	present
Daniel Bogen	present
Ralphine Siggars Ford	absent
Terri Goldson	present
Sal Hanaif	absent
Dave Cassetti	present

5 present, 3 absent

also present:

Tara Kolakowski

Mr. Scarlata declared the meeting open at 7:10. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.  
A quorum was present.

Mr. Scarlata opened the meeting to the public. No one wished to address the Commission. Mr. Scarlata then closed the meeting to the public.

Mr. Scarlata entertained a motion to accept last month's minutes. Mr. Seccombe made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldson. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata then moved on to old business. In regard to the budget, he stated that EDC has to address BOAT in order to maintain the funds that have been allocated for salaries and to request that they be put into a line item for the boards use. He presented the board with a recommendation of how he should present the allocation of funds to BOAT. He stated that he is recommending that a portion be used for storefront improvement, website development, and maintenance and bike festival.

Alderman Marini stated that as far as BOAT is concerned, all unused salary funding is to be returned to the reserve fund. As a result, if the board is looking to use these funds, they need to stress the fact that Economic Development has been underfunded for over a decade. He added that the board needs to be specific as to exactly what the funds would be used for. He stated that he was told that they would not consider any "abstract line items." The members discussed a number of ideas of how they could use the funds to promote the city.

Mr. Randy Carroll of the Historic Commission stated that with regard to the buildings on North Main Street, any buildings with the little blue plaque, need to come before the Historic Commission, for their approval, before anything is done to them as these buildings are on the National Historic Register. He explained that from the Opera House to the end of Main Street on that side of the street, including Antique Alley and the Post Office comprise the buildings in question. He stated that nothing could be done to those buildings to their exterior at all.

Alderman Marini stated that there is a small group to discuss the future Economic Development Director. He then stated that there is a survey that may be done to address the things that that position will be empowered to do. Shelton's Economic Development Director stated that they hire a consultant firm to put together a study to address the needs of the town. Alderman Stowe stated that Alderman Marini wasn't totally accurate. He stated that the suggestion was to hire a temporary Economic Development Director and have a survey done. He asked where the funding was going to come from for these items? He was told that is not a function of the board to determine. Mr. Goldson explained that this is probably a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to keep some of the funding and use it to promote Ansonia like we haven't been able to in the past. Alderman Stowe asked where Mr. Goldson thought the funding for the study was going to come from. Mr. Goldson stated that he doesn't know where the funds for that would come from, but the bottom line is that it is not an item that is that needs to be addressed at this time. That will need to be addressed in NEXT year's budget. We are looking at the funds from the budget for the current year. The mayor will be the one ultimately deciding this issue.

Mr. Goldson made a motion to request to transfer \$45,000 for a Storefront Improvement program, \$15, 000 for a dedicated Economic Development Web site, \$6, 000 for Ansonia's Second Annual Bike Festival, \$10, 659.93 for Main Street Beautification (banners, flags, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, flower boxes, etc., and \$2,000.00 for a painted portrait of Mr. Perry,. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cassetti. All were in favor of the motion.

Alderman Marini stated that members of the board need to go to BOAT's meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> so that they can address their concerns.

Mr. Scarlata then showed the members a map of the stores on Main Street. He stated that students photographed the storefronts as a part of the storefront makeover and we will be able to use it as the start of the inventory of properties so they can be cataloged as to what is available and what is not. This will be able to be updated and used as a tool in the future.

Mr. Scarlata then stated that he spoke to his contact at Emmett O'Brien and the recreation of the original bike will not be made in time for the festival. There just isn't enough time to complete the project.

In regard to the Bike Festival, the Cultural Commission is intimidated by the scope of this project. There is going to be a BMX staging area for bikes and skateboards. The Festival will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Valley nurses will be doing helmet safety. Several bike clubs want to get involved with this. They are planning on blocking off Main Street from Maple to Tremont and blocking off the side streets as well.

Mr. Cassetti stated that he would like to discuss tax incentives for businesses. He feels that we should create a subcommittee to look at what the city currently has to offer and then possibly propose changes.

Mr. Scarlata stated that the Mayor took him through the Palmer building and the ATP building. They are both vacant. The city is trying to take that property back from Duke Realty. Mr. Cassetti made a motion that the board forms a subcommittee to look at what we need to do to promote this building. Mr. Goldson stated that the board has already done this already but nothing has been done with it. Mr. Goldson suggested that they just put discussion about the City of Ansonia Enterprise Corridor Zone Incentives on next months' agenda and to find out what other municipalities (Seymour specifically) have done and try and apply it to Ansonia.

Mr. Scarlata then stated that he is going to try to speak with the Director of Housatonic Community College about putting an annex of the college in Ansonia. He thinks that the Palmer building would be perfect for this. He also is going to speak with Griffin Hospital and St. Raphael's representatives about bring some of their private practices into Ansonia as well.

There was no further business to come before the board.

Mr. Scarlotta entertained a motion for adjournment. Mr. Secombe made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldson.

The meeting ended at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha  
Secretary