

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY HALL
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Vice Chairman
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012 ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 7:00 PM

The Economic Development Commission held its Regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 16, 2012. The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call:

Vincent Scarlata	present
Greg Seccombe	present
Daniel Bogen	present
Ralphine Siggars Ford	absent
Terri Goldson	absent
Sal Hanaif	absent
Dave Cassetti	absent
Keith Murray	present
Horace Behrle	present

5 present, 4 absent

Mr. Scarlata declared the meeting open at 7:12. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. A quorum was present.

Mr. Scarlata opened the meeting to the public.

Anthony Christy, 114 Hodge Avenue, stated that he purchased a house at 75 Myrtle Street. He feels that the house at 49 Myrtle Street is a blighted property. He offered to purchase the house, but the price that the owner is looking for is out of his range. He is wondering if there is anything that the board could do. He was told that he should contact the Blight Enforcement Officer regarding this issue.

There was no one else that wished to speak from the public. Mr. Scarlata closed the meeting to the public.

He then asked if anyone had any corrections to the minutes. There were none. He then entertained motions to approve the minutes of the June meetings. Mr. Seccombe made a motion to approve the June minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murray. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata stated that he hasn't gotten the rest of the information needed for the grant for the store fronts. He is in the process of getting this finished by the next meeting so that it can be published.

Mr. Behrle asked if it was true that Millie's was going to close. He was told that the landlord is doubling his rent. The landlord is the next door neighbor, (the church) and rumor is that they want to expand the church. Mr. Scarlata doesn't believe that they can expand the church because they would have to go to Zoning.

Mr. Scarlata asked Mr. Murray what was going on with the incentive program. Mr. Murray stated that they are in the process of getting all the necessary documents together. Once he gets them all together, it's just a matter of tweaking them. Once that is done, they will be presenting them to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

The Commission now owns the domain "AnsoniaEDC.com". It cost \$500 annually and \$20 to register the domain name. The Commission was originally told that it might cost \$3,000. The web site has been live and active as of the beginning of July. Northborough Group is working on the web design.

Mr. Scarlata is working on an inventory of vacant sites for future businesses. Once the school is back in session Mr. Murray will be contacting the teacher involved and see how quickly things can be moved along.

Mr. Scarlata then stated that he would like to purchase a mailing list for \$100 that will give the Commission all of the Ansonia businesses, their addresses, and their phone numbers. Some of the members questioned if they don't already have this information. Mr. Scarlata stated that the information that they have is not current.

Alderman Radin stated that the police department just received a complete list of all of the businesses in the town including their addresses and their phone numbers to go with the reverse 911. The board may be able to obtain a list from them.

Mr. Scarlata then stated that the Farmer's Market is doing well. It's consistent for the area. They are accepting the WIC coupons. It's growing as people get to know about it. Next year the intent is to have the vendors be producer only. They sell what they themselves grow.

Mr. Scarlata then spoke about the Drive-in fundraiser. He spoke to Jeff Coppola from the Recreation Committee and from what he can tell, Mr. Coppola hasn't done anything regarding this. Mr. Scarlata then spoke to Mrs. Merlone and she suggested that he contact the Guidance Counselor at the High School and see if they would be interested in hosting the Drive-in and use it as a

fundraiser. The funds for this were encumbered from the Bike Fest funds to cover the first movie night.

Mr. Scarlata then told the members that he received another invoice for the advertising for the bike fest the other day. The invoice was for \$650. What he would like to do is take the funds that were encumbered from the bike fest monies and use them to pay this bill. The funds for the Movie Night could be taken from this year's events budget.

There will be a fundraiser to help with the cost to repair the Football field at Nolan Field. It will be a donation of 10% of the proceeds of businesses on Main Street for a specific day. There was a change of dates for it because there wasn't enough time to get everyone on board to have it on the original date.

The board had voted to send Vito Epifano a fruit basket out of Economic Development funds. Mr. Scarlata informed the board that we could not do it this way. It is supposed to be donations from the members. The Mayor told Mr. Scarlata that he would take care of the cost.

Mr. Scarlata then discussed the Grant Program. He stated that OPM, the Office of Policy Management from Hartford published, through Connecticut Main Street Center, \$500, 000 blocks of grant monies. The grants are available to all qualified communities that have a population of less than 35, 000. Ansonia fits all of the criteria for this grant. It is a grant that is specific to Economic Development. There are about 130 towns in this classification. Only ten grants will be awarded. This makes this a very competitive grant. He has been told that because it is so specific, they really should not write the grant in house. The grant should be written by an outside consultant. The grant application must be submitted by September 28th. The application has to be a part of a plan that has already been approved by the city. West Main Street is one such plan. This is a perfect plan to be used for this grant. The Grant Resolution was already approved by the Board of Aldermen. The Economic Development Commission will be the project manager for this if we are awarded the grant.

There was no further business to come before the board.

Mr. Scarlata entertained a motion for adjournment. Mr. Bogen made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hanaif.

The meeting ended at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha
Secretary