

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 28, 2013  
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Bresnahan (5:40), Dorgan, Fecho (5:39), Hirschorn, Kazerounian, McGuire, Thompson  
Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by McGuire.

Approval of Minutes

- February 20, 2013 – Thompson MOVED, Hirschorn SECONDED approval of the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment was received during the public comment section of the meeting. McGuire did notice and take comment from Meg Reich during other portions of the meeting. Reich noted that the Commission should become familiar with proposed changes at state level with regard to tourism, noting that a regional tourism district may need to be established to market eastern Connecticut.

Staff Reports

- **Business Activity.** Hart and Painter updated the Commission on new businesses including a new Japanese restaurant at Storrs Center. Roger Adams with the Windham Chamber of Commerce noted that there would be a grand opening for Peachwave, a frozen yogurt shop, the following week. Questions were asked regarding the relocation of businesses that were displaced through the Storrs Center project and whether anyone was aware of a new business in the former Grand Union space.
- **Events.** There were no events to report
- **Chamber of Commerce/MBPA Association.** Roger Adams updated the Commission on the Chamber's Business Awards program and the most recent meeting of the MBPA, which included a presentation from Mary Holz Clause of UConn. He requested placement on a future agenda to brief the Commission on Chamber activities and publications.
- **Other.** Commission members requested that future agendas include a section on suggestions for future meeting agendas.

Old Business

1. **Water Supply EIE.** Hart noted that a meeting with the University was scheduled for the following week.
2. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Thompson volunteered to serve as the Commission's representative on the Agriculture Focus Group. Painter provided an overview of the presentation from the March 9<sup>th</sup> Community Visioning Forum. Dorgan suggested that the Town consider use of Transfer of Development Rights to help protect existing farmland.
3. **Storrs Center Fiscal Impact Study.** Hart updated the Commission on the anticipated impacts for FY13-14, noting that FY14 projected marginal operating costs for Storrs Center are covered by the anticipated revenues in the proposed budget. Additionally, for the first time, the Storrs Center revenues will be used to cover the town's contribution to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. Hart also noted that with the completion of Phase 1A, EDR is now the town's largest taxpayer.
4. **Election of Officers.** The only position remaining is Secretary. Staff will research whether the position is required and if it could be combined with another officer such as Vice Chair.

New Business

1. **Discussion of vision for economic development.** After a brief discussion, the Commission determined that the most appropriate venue for this discussion was as part of the Mansfield Tomorrow Economic Development Focus Group meetings.
2. **Meeting Dates for Mansfield Tomorrow Economic Development Focus Group.** Painter advised the Commission of the proposed dates for the Mansfield Tomorrow Economic Development Focus Group, which include Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 (in lieu of the Commission's regular meeting) and Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30, which would be a joint meeting with the Agriculture Focus Group.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development