**Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting, Stamford Connecticut**

**Thursday, August 11th, 2022**

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Huerta called the meeting to order at 4:11 PM

1. **Roll Call**
   1. *Commissioners Present*: James Huerta, Stephen Fischer, Mark Diamond, Margaret Feeney, & John Louizos
   2. *Commissioners Absent*:
   3. *Staff*: Loren Nadres, Leah Kagan Aaron Miller
   4. *Guests*: Jeff Benson
2. **Reading and Approval of Minutes**
   1. Chair Huerta asked if all commissioners have read the minutes from the regular meeting held on June 9, 2022, and the special meeting held on July 12th, 2022.
   2. Mr. Louizos made a motion to amend the minutes from the July 12 special meeting to reflect that the administration and EDC had agreed that the Chair or his designee could be a member of the Mayor’s Business Roundtable. The motion to amend the minutes was unanimously approved.
   3. Chair Huerta then asked for a motion to accept these minutes, as amended. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Diamond and was seconded by Mr. Louizos. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Committee Reports**
   1. Chairman’s – Jim Huerta
      1. Stamford Affordable Housing Plans – Discuss Media Report – Activity
         1. Mr. Louizos stated he wanted to revive the city-wide property tour, get together with ED office and Ralph to do a tour of top 10 priorities
      2. Mr. Diamond mentioned he would like to see the affordable housing study made publicly available
   2. Director’s – Loren Nadres
      1. Administration’s key priorities for EDC support going forward for the year ahead
         1. Identify areas of collaboration for EDC
         2. Business attraction – working together with EDC on business attraction
         3. Key items for the next 6 months, especially with ARPA grant
            1. ARPA is $1.5 mm and go to small businesses affected by covid and identifying through RFP process
         4. Mr. Huerta asks that the EDC be involved in the selection process for the company that will get ARPA distribution
         5. Mr. Louizos mentions he would like to see a diverse group of new sources together when time is right for announcement of grants
4. **Old Business** 
   1. Minority Business Engagement Update
      1. The commission notes again, they would like to see a diverse group of businesses chosen for those who receive ARPA grants.
   2. Update on Stamford Transportation Center
      1. Mr. Louizos stated that he has not been able to gather any further updates, and the only updates he has seen are from driving by it.
5. **New Business** 
   1. ED Director Reporting
      1. Mr. Huerta notes he would like to see the ED Director give/send a report to the commission about a week before each meeting and Ms. Nadres stated she would take it under consideration.
      2. Commissioners request that the ED Office provide any advanced notice of economic development news
6. **Public Comment**
   1. Mr. Benson asks when the commission will return to in person meetings? Mr. Huerta responds the commission is discussing option and will determine when to shift back to in person meetings
7. **Adjournment**
   1. Chair Huerta asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at4:55 PM. Mr. Fischer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diamond The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Diamond

Secretary

Stamford Economic Development Commission