

David R. Martin
Mayor

Thomas Madden, AICP
Director of Economic
Development



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Jonathan Winkel
Chairman

Stephen Fischer
Vice Chairman

James Huerta
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Diamond ESQ.
Member

TBD
Member

CITY OF STAMFORD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Stamford Government Center-Stamford, Connecticut
Regular Meeting- Thursday, October 8, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the City of Stamford Economic Development Commission (EDC) Office of Economic Development (OED) was held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 4:04pm via Zoom Meeting on the 9th floor in the Urban Redevelopment Commission Conference Room, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Winkel called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Jonathan Winkel, Stephen Fischer, James Huerta and Mark Diamond

Staff: Thomas Madden-Director Economic Development, John Varamo-Economic Development Analyst, Dr. Tommie Jackson Assistant Director-URC, Theresa Bowen, Office Manager-URC.

3. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes: From Regular Meeting held on September 10, 2020

Chairman Winkel asked for reading of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 10, 2020. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was moved by Commissioner Diamond and second by Commissioner Huerta. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Winkel stated there were no new requests or opinions received. Chairman Winkel discussed a proposed change to the meeting schedule which would require a change to the City of Stamford Charter & Code. A motion was made by Commissioner Huerta to move EDC Meeting from monthly to quarterly with second from Commissioner Fischer. After discussion, Commissioner Diamond made a motion to table the motion to old business at the next meeting with second from Commissioner Fischer. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Madden provided an update on Phase 3 of Reopening Stamford and a first violation was issued to a restaurant for noncompliance. The Economic Development Department has been very active in recruitment. He stated two new companies were moving to Stamford, one of which is a Fortune 1000 company and the other a startup company opening office space. He also gave highlights on other business employment opportunities. Mr. Madden stated he attended a meeting for Work force Development, "Next Gen", which is part of the Governor's Taskforce and provided the Commissioners with meeting highlights. Lastly, he recognized John Varamo for the article in Stamford Magazine that featured the work that was done for cataloging the City's public art collection and posting on ChooseStamford.com. Mr. Varamo gave a quick update on the Arts & Culture Commission business, such as building a strategic plan and the Stamford Arts & Culture grant process and application.

6. Old Business

a. 5th Commissioner Status Update-

Mr. Madden stated Margaret Malloy has been resubmitted to the Board of Reps for reconsideration.

b. Minority Business Engagement by City of Stamford

Mr. Madden stated a memo will be drafted to the Board of Reps on how to engage minority businesses in the city. Also, Dr. Jackson is working on putting together a form to identify minority owned businesses.

c. Short Term Rentals Legislature with P & Z

Mr. Madden updated the Commissioners on the status of the Short Term Rentals Legislature, which will be moving forward. He'll forward the detail electronically to the Commissioners and will be updated in the Director's report next meeting.

7. New Business

a. Proposed Change to EDC Meeting Calendar

This item was covered earlier in the agenda under the Chairperson Report.

b. Next Meeting

i. Discussion-Next Meeting Agenda

ii. Confirmation-Next Regular Meeting (Thurs. Nov 12, 2020 at 4pm)

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Winkel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:37pm. A motion was made by Commissioner Diamond with second from Commissioner Fischer. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously. With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Huerta", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

James "Jim" Huerta,
Secretary-Economic Development Commission