

David R. Martin
Mayor

Thomas Madden, AICP
Director of Economic
Development



COMMISSION
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, November 12, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the City of Stamford Economic Development Commission (EDC) Office of Economic Development (OED) was held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 4:05pm 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 4:05pm.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Jonathan Winkel, James Huerta and Mark Diamond
Commissioner(s) Late: Stephen Fischer

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

Guest(s): Michael Pollard, Marty Levine

3. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes: From Regular Meeting held on October 8, 2020

Chairman Winkel asked for reading of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 8, 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 with Commissioners present.

4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Winkel stated that newly appointed Commissioner Margaret Feeney has reached out to him about the Commission and the meeting schedule. She will be joining the Commission at the December meeting.

Chairman Winkel there have been no new requests or opinions received. However he did receive new agenda items that will be covered under New Business.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Madden provided an update on Reopening Stamford and reverting back to a 2.1 (Phase 1 rules) status with the rise of Covid-19. If the numbers continue to rise a full shutdown is possible in 2-3 weeks. He did discuss the lack of financial support from the federal government for small business and the rise of unemployment that this will have impact on city revenues. However he did state some good news with both new corporate and renewed corporate leases on the rise. He provided highlights of recent webinars that were held including one by Menu Maven, which will be an option for home delivery for restaurants at a more cost effective price.

a. Short Term Rentals Legislature with P& Z

The Short terms legislation is moving forward with Zoning and then on to the Board of Reps.

Commissioner Fischer joined at 4:13pm

Old Business

b. 5th Commissioner Status Update-

Chairman Winkel stated this covered during his Chairman's report but if anyone had any to add. Mr. Madden stated Margaret Feeney has been sworn in and will be in attendance at the December meeting.

c. Proposed Change to EDC Meeting Calendar

Chairman Winkel reviewed the proposed change to the meeting schedule that was discussed at the last meeting. After discussion, Chairman Winkel stated this will be stricken from the agenda.

d. Minority Business Engagement by City of Stamford

Dr. Jackson reviewed programs that are currently being done in Bridgeport, CT and New Haven, CT. The most comprehensive program comes from the City of Bridgeport. He shared highlights of discussions being held with the Mayor and Chief of Staff. He requested that this matter be held on the agenda until further information comes from the Mayor's office.

6. New Business

a. Discussion of New Agenda Items

Commissioner Huerta reviewed 10 points that he previously sent to both Chairman of the EDC and URC. First, a recommendation of different meeting dates for EDC and URC. Second, the hierarchy of the EDC with the URC. Looking for more information, communication regarding EDC such as Fairfield Five, Stamford Next and Stamford Partnership. More formality is needed. Chairman Winkel suggested that representatives be invited to a meeting to provide a progress report. Chairman Winkel requested that Mr. Madden put together a synopsis for the next meeting.

Third, he recommend a special meeting maybe needed for this topic, EDC personnel within URC facilities. Four, working on something, gaining momentum and then it can't be done due to rules, regulations etc. Looking for more guidance from staff. Five, staff support. Ensure projects, notifications, goals that timelines by established to meet deadlines. This discussion will be tabled.

b. Next Meeting

- i. Discussion-Next Meeting Agenda
- ii. Confirmation-Next Regular Meeting (Thurs. Dec. 10, 2020 at 4pm)

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Winkel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:50pm. 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,



James "Jim" Huerta,
Secretary-Economic Development Commission