

Town of Fairfield
Office of Community & Economic Development
Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting
February 4, 2010

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on February 4, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Sally Ward; Maureen Abrahamson; Chris LaSala; Brian Silvestro; Abbas Nadim

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Ross Ogden, Abbey Road Partners; Peter Ambrose; Pat Reilly; Jackie Campbell; Don Peterson; Jason Arndt; Catherine Ernsky, Fairfield Chamber of Commerce; Tony Wang

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of January 7, 2010 were approved.

Presentation, Black Rock Turnpike Additional Parking, K. Kleban

Ms. Campbell, facilities manager for Kleban Properties, presented their plan for adding some semi-automatic parking spaces at the rear of their property, underneath existing stores. The expectation is that this will be used by employees and thus free spaces for patrons of the batting cage and other businesses in the area. The commissioners agreed to send a letter in support of the project to the T P & Z.

Fairfield Center

Mr. Barnhart said that on behalf of the Commission he had provided letters of support for the Colony Grill to the T P & Z. Their requests for a parking variance and for a restaurant use of the building were approved.

The EDC is applying to the Police Commission for a change of parking hours from 2 to 3 on Unquowa Road. This is at the request of many of the businesses on the block. Mr. Barnhart said since the town does not have jurisdiction over the Post Road, parking there would remain 2 hrs.

Commerce Drive Planning Study

Mr. Barnhart said P & Z would have a special meeting with RPI representatives before drafting the proposed regulations. These will be considered by the P & Z in an executive session. Mr. Barnhart will alert the commissioners as to the date of the meeting. Mr. Penczer mentioned that Fitness Edge would be moving to the Linens 'n Things building, leaving an empty spot on Commerce Drive soon. He also mentioned that work is continuing on the Infinity building and that Mercedes Benz is rebuilding their showroom.

Micro Enterprise

Mr. Barnhart said he has a meeting next week with a business owner moving from Bridgeport to Fairfield who would like some help.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said the town is still waiting for information from the state on its pledge of funds for the project. In answer to Mr. Ambrose' question as to a time table for the opening of the station, Mr. Barnhart said the public portion of the project could be finished in 12-18 months. Mr. Wang indicated that from his vantage in the legislature, any delay would be due to the interpretation of the original three-part agreement as regards the area where the parking and drainage are to be. Mr. Barnhart said the town has title to the 9 acres in question and owns the permits.

Handy & Harmon/Kings Crossing

Mr. Barnhart said site work is proceeding on this property.

New Business

Mr. Barnhart said he would be updating the 5-year plan for CDBG. He expects to hold workshops on topical areas in order to get community input. One of these will be held during the March EDC meeting. He will send information to the commissioners as to the types of projects eligible for CDBG funds.

Mr. LaSala asked what the zoning is for the property on the Post Road currently occupied by Infinity. Mr. Penczer said this stretch of the road is 'Commercial'. Mr. La Sala asked that an item be put on the agenda regarding the development of this area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

The next meeting is March 4, 2010

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner

