

Town of Fairfield

**Office of Community & Economic Development
Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting**

October 13, 2011

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on October 13, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Maureen Abrahamson; Brian Silvestro; Sally Ward

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Don Peterson; Sally Parker; Ross Ogden; Glen McDermott

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2011 were approved.

Chips Family Restaurant

Mr. McDermott, public relations representative for the new business, spoke about the restaurant and the intention of the owner to be active in the community. He would like to encourage patrons to think of it as a venue for informal meetings. He said they are having a contest to name the 41st pancake flavor available there. Profits from the Thanksgiving morning sales will be donated to local not-for-profits.

EDC Questionnaire/Decision Matrix

Mr. Barnhart distributed a copy of the revised questionnaire. There are six questions. It is hoped that this will aid commissioners and departments in their examination of applications for development in town. Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Penczer will finalize the form and write an accompanying letter that will be sent to land use

attorneys. Mr. Silvestro suggested that a copy be available at the zoning office.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said the Parking Authority has developed 'FAQ's ABOUT THE NEW TRAIN STATION'. These are available to those who request them as well as being on the town website. He said it is expected that the station will be opened by the end of October. Paving of the parking lot is underway. Utility coordination is still slow, though it is improving. Mr. Barnhart said there are many aspects of the operation of the facility to be worked out. These are the items that will determine the actual opening of the station. He expects that this occasion will be important enough that the Governor and other dignitaries will be present as this is the first new station in the state in 50 years. Mr. Penczer commented that this would be the most important event affecting Fairfield and the region for many years to come.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Abrahamson asked if there had been any contact with the police department regarding holiday traffic downtown. She said there is also need to have a fuller explanation of 'single stream recycling' as it affects merchants in the area.

Mr. Silvestro asked when the Fairfield University Bookstore will open. Mr. Barnhart said that would probably happen in December. Mr. Penczer asked if there would be buses between the campus and downtown. Mr. Barnhart said he expected there would be some transportation provided for students.

Mr. Barnhart said business at Whole Foods was slow but that it was expected to increase with the opening of the station as well as the other businesses coming to the vicinity.

Mr. Barnhart said he would be making a presentation at the Business Development Series at the library on October 25.

Mr. Penczer asked the EDC commissioners to consider the Kings Highway corridor as the next focus of development and improvement in town.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be on November 10, 2011

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner