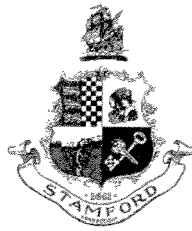


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MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING OF August 18, 2009
8:30 a.m.

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

TIME: 8:30 am
PLACE: Government Center
Mayor's Conference Room 10th Floor

ATTENDEES:

Economic Development Commission

Mike Pansini, Vice Chairman
Denis Patterson
Barry Haines
Fran Pastore

Economic Development Staff

Mike Freimuth
Lenora Cavaliero

Guest

Marcia Bittner, Fairfield County Board of Tourism

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Mike Pansini at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes:

Denis Patterson made motion to accept the minutes of July 21, 2009 and Fran Pastore seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tourism:

Guest speaker Marcia Bittner, Tourism Board member, provided the members with an in-depth description of the dismal set of circumstances the tourism business is facing. Tourism has reached a crisis, with state budget cuts and a failing economy, coupled with jobs that have been eliminated. The Tourism Board did a comparison survey of other parts of the state and determined that Fairfield County took the lead in the tourism industry in spite of the current crisis.

Marcia Bittner brought the Commissioners up to date with previous budgets of \$800,000 and the new budget of \$250,000 offered by the State as extremely low. The Tourism Board must

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decide if they will accept this new budget amount and if they can keep functioning after September 8, 2009. They are hoping that the State will offer more funds at some point. The Board is making every effort to look at outside sources as well.

The State would like to centralize the tourism industry and put it all under one umbrella at the Department of Economic and Community Development.

General discussion:

Economic issues/Fall elections: The Commissioners discussed several economic development items that they would like to be as flagged for the upcoming Fall elections including:

- Transportation
 - Lite Rail
 - Transit Center
 - Pedestrian Safety
- Growth in Housing Units
- Impact of South End
- Economic Base
 - Where do we focus?
- Energy
- Tax incentives
- Zoning/ Master Plan

Mike Freimuth requested that each submit their written thoughts for a proposed op-ed article by Chairman Joel Selden, and Vice Chairman Mike Pansini.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference room



Respectively submitted,
Lenora Cavaliero
Office of Economic Development Staff