

ENFIELD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING
ENFIELD TOWN HALL / ENFIELD ROOM
820 ENFIELD STREET, ENFIELD, CT 06082

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Revitalization Strategy Committee was held on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at Enfield Town Hall, Enfield Room, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair, Earl Stallings.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Earl Stallings, Vice-Chair Ken Edgar, Brittany Heisler, Connie Provencher, Jerry Fitzsimons, and Colleen Reidy (arrived 7:33).

ALSO PRESENT

Peter Bryanton, Director of Community Development, Michael Ciriello, Director of Development Services, and Dawn Hunt, Community Development Secretary.

ABSENT

Michael Scalzo, Mary Scutt, Planning & Zoning, John Foxx, Bill Lee, Town Council, Linda DeGray, Teri Anderson, Jennifer Bruyette, William "Red" Edgar, Town Council, Marie Pynzar, and Michelle Lewandowski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The 8/25/16, 9/22/16, 12/1/16, and 2/23/17 meeting minutes were tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Improve Walkability in Enfield / Complete Streets**

Peter Bryanton shared the Town's Complete Streets policy, which is a way of making the Town more walkable, including sidewalks, bike lanes and bus/transit stops. The Complete Streets map shows gaps in available sidewalks in crucial areas, such as in front of Asnuntuck College and along Shaker Road. The map shows multi-use paths and bike trails, and there are plans underway for extending and connecting the existing bike paths. A more walkable community equals a more inviting community. A website that scores walkability gave Thompsonville a score of 60% with Enfield as a whole at only 30%, which makes residents highly dependent on automobiles. We need to work on improving the walkability around town to become more desirable, as many people want walkability access to jobs.

- **Walking Tour Application**

Michael and Peter showed the website "Pocketsights" which allows communities to create various walking tours throughout the town that would be accessible through an app. This could be set up quickly and shared with schools for field trips. Members discussed how this could be set up for Thompsonville and could be easily updated with seasonal/holiday themes. It could include interviews with people who have memories about specific places and periods in time. These will create return experiences – examples include a 50's Christmas, or Halloween and hauntings – and could also include locations and videos of various Town celebrations. Peter will look into the cost and membership information for the site. Members are excited about this

idea and asked that everyone share ideas on what they'd like to see. They suggested doing tours for the other villages, the Scantic River walk where there are some ruins. Also suggested partnering with the Historical Society and the Cultural Arts Commission for their input.

- **Farm to Table Fundraiser**

Special guests: Rebecca Oleson, President of Enfield Community Development Corporation
Karen LaPlante, Chairman of Conservation Commission/Agricultural Commission

Michael explained the goal of this is to bring together committees and groups with common goals. For ECDC, it will help to raise funds. For the Conservation/Agricultural Commission, it will bring awareness and support to local products and farms. For ERSC, it will bring people to Thompsonville and expose people to the riverfront. The idea is sell tickets for an outdoor dinner (under tents) at the riverfront/boat launch, with volunteers to make it all happen. Karen will suggest local farmers and suggested getting guest chefs from multiple restaurants involved, where they prepare meals with locally produced food. Rebecca stated this will encourage restaurants to use more local produce/food and could help with their menu. They discussed having locally grown flowers on the tables, local fish caught from the river, CT wine, and local breweries involved. This could help with advertising the event as many people follow particular establishments and would be inclined to attend because of that. There could be a chef competition similar to the show "Chopped" where they must use locally sourced food to create an appetizer that will be served. The goal is to rebuild pride in Enfield. Various locations along the riverfront area were discussed, as well as logistics such as potentially closing side streets. Members discussed the possibility of local musicians, potential boat rides, etc. They also discussed holding similar events at other locations, such as Hazardville / Scantic areas. Earl mentioned Farm Credit East lends only to Agricultural companies and could be a good sponsor for the event.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

REPORT OF TOWN STAFF, Peter Bryanton

- Peter provided a "Projects and Activities" report handout for members to review and shared that another \$50 million was committed by the state for the Hartford rail line project, which includes Enfield. The commuter rail service is expected to start in early 2018 and Enfield hopes our station will come soon after.
- Members discussed the committee budget and options for getting donations for events and requesting the option to carry these funds over fiscal years.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Steve Cogtella: Asked for an ECDC update. He feels there is a conflict with the Town Manager acting as the Executive Director of ECDC due to ECDC property being in TIF district. Also wanted to know if any residents will be on the TIF advisory committee. He asked about the relocating of businesses into TIF districts, and the CEA nondisclosure/confidentiality agreements and why they're allowed.

Rebecca stated that she's a member of a private board for ECDC and doesn't want to discuss their business on the record for this public committee but offered to speak to Steve after the meeting. Mike stated its common practice in the private sector in the relocation of businesses to

have the confidentiality/nondisclosure agreements for the protection of the business interests. He's not sure if it will be a part of Enfield's TIF regulations.

The public present questioned the effectiveness of TIF districts. Mike stated that smaller is better, having a targeted area, and that a lot of oversight is necessary. The TIF will benefit revitalization and will involve public/private cooperation. He stated ECDC is in a TIF district and that the Town's Finance Director is heavily involved in the process. This is one way that government functions like a business. He reiterated there will be public hearings as the TIF program goes forward.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

- April 22nd at 10:30 AM is Clean Sweep. It's on the Town's website. Spread the word.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2017, potentially held at the Hazardville Fire station.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Submitted by:

Dawn Hunt, Community Development Secretary

Approved by:

Earl Stallings, Chairman

Signature _____ Date _____