

Brookfield Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting
MINUTES

Tuesday, Apr 16, 2019 7:00PM
Brookfield Town Hall, Conference Room 209

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman J. Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Chairman J. Fisher, Vice Chair G. Dembowski, Commissioner P. Gerardi, Commissioner R. Reynolds, Commissioner M. Butow, and Commissioner D. Matte
Absent: none
Also Present: D. Ferraro, Community Development Specialist; A. Kennedy, Recording Secretary; F. Thomas, President, Archegos Consulting (observing)
2. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
3/19/19-Chairman J. Fisher noted two corrections to the minutes from 3/19/19. He said M. Butow was present at the meeting and his name was not recorded, and he also said the amount discussed for donation to the Town Center block party was \$250. **R. Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/19/19. D. Matte seconded the motion and G. Dembowski abstained. The motion carried 5-0-1.**

R. Reynolds made a motion to donate \$250 to the Brookfield Town Center for Business for their block party. M. Butow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. NEW BUSINESS
Stephen Harding, State Representative, 107th District was present.
S. Harding said he was present to answer any questions the Commissioners may have regarding state policies that they may be concerned about from an economic development perspective and to discuss any ways he can be an intermediary between the Commission and the state on any particular issues. Chairman J. Fisher brought up bonding issues regarding the Streetscape Project and S. Harding discussed that topic. Vice Chairman G. Dembowski discussed issues regarding the DOT changing their interpretation of a gray area on eligibility for LOTCIP reimbursement. He said he has talked to the West COG Executive Director and Steve Dunn regarding meeting with the head of the LOTCIP program in Newington. Vice Chairman G. Dembowski said they have been requesting this meeting for the past two weeks but have not gotten a response. S. Harding said he could act as an intermediary on this issue by calling his liaison in the Commissioner's office to help facilitate setting up the meeting. The Commission discussed the scope of Phase 3 of the Streetscape project, which is in jeopardy under this change of interpretation. Vice Chairman G. Dembowski asked S. Harding to discuss tolls and the impact it would have on economic development, and S. Harding talked about his view on this topic. Vice Chairman G. Dembowski discussed a project called the I84 Corridor Project and said he is on the public advisory committee representing Brookfield and they have quarterly meetings.
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. 2019 BUDGET UPDATE –D. Ferraro said there is no update to the budget at this time. Chairman J. Fisher asked D. Ferraro to provide a copy of the proposed budget for next year at the next meeting. The Commission discussed possible ideas to utilize this year's budget

before the end of the fiscal year. Ideas included supporting events such as the Streetscape Groundbreaking, printing an EDC fact sheet or pamphlet, purchasing a table cloth/skirt with the EDC name and logo, or other EDC promotion materials.

Vice Chair G. Dembowski made a motion to give the Community Development Specialist the approval to do competitive price searching and purchase subject table cloth and skirt with our emblem for us to use at all public events. R. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. COMMUNITY SPECIALIST UPDATE – D. Ferraro said a recent press release was about Branson Technologies new \$49 million headquarters that is being built in Berkshire Corporate Park. She said the press release has been finalized and sent out. Vice Chairman G. Dembowski said the press release should also be put up on the EDC website and the EDC social media pages. D. Ferraro asked if any of the Commissioners would like to speak at the September 18th Small Business Series topic “Get Involved: Commissions and Associations”. D. Ferraro said a new business has moved into town called Pieology and they are hoping to be open within 3 months. She said they specialize in personalized pizzas, and they will be located next to Hummus & Pita. D. Ferraro said the networking flyer they currently have is geared more towards residents and she has updated that into a small card geared towards businesses. D. Ferraro said there was Development Services meeting today and Anthony DiFeo was present. She said he is a business owner in Brookfield and is looking to expand. He is willing to give the Commission a tour of his facility and she asked if the Commissioners were interested in a tour. The Commissioner confirmed they were interested and authorized D. Ferraro to set up a tour date.
 - c. STREETSCAPE UPDATE – Vice Chairman G. Dembowski said he made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on April 1st. He showed the Commissioners the materials presented at that meeting, including the bid document. He explained the type of information in that document and explained what is needed to get reimbursed by the state. Vice Chairman G. Dembowski said he and D. Ferraro had a meeting last month with HART and there are going to be seven bus stops and shelters put in the lower Federal Road area. HART is paying for the shelters but will not be responsible for maintenance of the shelters.
 - d. STRATEGIC GOALS Discussion-Chairman J. Fisher said he would like the Commission to do more business tours, as outlined in the strategic goals.
6. ADJOURN
- Vice Chair G. Dembowski made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. R. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**