

Regional and Economic Development Committee
Conference Call
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021
3:00 PM

Members Present via GoToMeeting: Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Randal Davis, DECD Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum and Bob Patricelli

Staff Present via GoToMeeting: Mike Freimuth and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Ms. Hopgood, who was chairing the Committee following the recent retirement of East Hartford Mayor Marcia LeClerc. Ms. Hopgood asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting and those were approved on a voice vote.

1) **Project updates** - Mr. Freimuth updated members on the following projects:

- a. **Hilton Hotel** – This project will likely be discussed within the Housing & Neighborhood Committee at its December meeting. CRDA funds are being requested as part of a complicated funding stack for a reboot of the Hilton Hotel. Mr. Freimuth reminded Committee members that CRDA has a vested interest in seeing the hotel remain open, as it is a key housing location for Convention Center events.
- b. **Regional Market** – Mr. Freimuth noted that after a series of drafts, HR&A’s first report on the Regional Market is now available. Commissioner Hurlburt of the State Ag Department has reviewed the document and expressed his support for the consultant’s approach. A second HR&A report outlining desired uses for the site and potential square footages is expected shortly. Mr. Freimuth noted that a presentation to the full Board is tentatively scheduled for December or January.
- c. **Parkville Market – Phase 2**: Mr. Freimuth noted that the developer of the Parkville Market has paid off his original CRDA note and the proceeds will likely be rolled into a second phase of development. Renovation of two buildings, including one across a courtyard from the original Market building, could include a distillery, entertainment space, sit-down dining, rooftop area and potentially a brewery. CRDA funds are likely to be used for environmental remediation, with City economic development funds also in the mix. Additional details will be presented at a future committee meeting.
- d. **Great River Park** – Work by Riverfront Recapture at the East Hartford park will close down over the winter months.

- e. **Goodwin Drainage Project** – Mr. Freimuth noted that the third phase of drainage upgrades near Goodwin College will begin in the spring, utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds secured by East Hartford. CRDA is working to finalize an MOU with the Town.
 - f. **Bushnell South Garage** – Mr. Freimuth reported that the garage is expected to be operational around December 1st.
- 2) **Other Business** – Mr. Freimuth noted that Mike Walsh, the newly-elected mayor of East Hartford, has expressed an interest in serving on the Regional and Economic Development Committee.

The next meeting of the Regional & Economic Development Committee is scheduled for December 9, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

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