Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; May 23rd, 2011; CCRPA Offices, Suite 304; 225 North Main Street, Bristol, CT

I. Call to order, introductions; determination of quorum (representatives from 4 different municipalities) the meeting was called to order at 12:15pm with the following members in attendance, except as noted:

A. Municipality Representatives

Berlin Jim Mahoney - Econ. Dev - AB Bill Millerick - Chamber - AB Bristol Art Ward - Mayor - AB Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev. Jonathan Rosenthal (Chair) - Ec. Dev. Plainville Robert E. Lee - Manager - AB Mike Nicastro - Chamber (com. org's.) Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev. Rich Stocker - Econ. Dev - AB Burlington Plymouth Khara Dodds - Ec. Dev. - AB Mike Scheidel - Chamber - AB Southington Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev.

New Britain Tim Stewart (V. Chair) – AB

B. Non-municipal Representatives

Julie Geyer - CWP (Un/underemployed) Bruce Lydem (Organized Labor) – AB

Jack Driscoll (Finance) – AB
Janet Serra - NW CT CVB (tourism/women) – AB
John O'Toole - Northeast Utilities (utilities) – AB
John Tricarico - CCRPA Paratransit (Disabilities)
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health
District (Health)

Peggy Sokol - Bristol Senior Center (aged/women) –AB Rosita Forte-Dobson - CT Small Business Center (Professionals/women/minorities) – AB

Rick Mullins - CCSU ITBD Victor Mitchell - Tunxis CC – AB Agricultural – Vacant CERC – N.A.

Also present were Kristin Thomas (CCRPA), Francis Pickering (CCRPA), Timothy Malone (CCRPA), and Ethan Abeles (CCRPA)

II. Approval of April 25th, 2010, minutes

MOTION: Mark DeVoe; seconded by Khara Dodds

III. CEDS

A. Finalize goals, objectives, and strategies

No new changes were proposed to the goals, objectives, and strategies.

B. Discuss prioritization criteria

Mike Nicastro mentioned that the "leverage" category will become increasingly important in the future. Jonathan Rosenthal suggested that the Alliance should focus on projects that are as close to ready to go as possible. Khara Dodds noted that it was not clear on the project survey form how to indicate whether or not "proper zoning" is in place. No other concerns were voiced.

C. Discuss CEDS projects

Discussion began by asking which projects were ready to go and which were further off. Mark DeVoe stated that the New Britain Avenue Brownfield

Alliance meetings are held quarterly on the third Monday of the month at noon in the CCRPA Offices. Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on June 20th, 2011.

Remediation project is very close, as is the streetscape project. Khara Dodds stated that the Plymouth Waterwheel project was in progress and ready to go. She reported that a museum is being considered for an adjacent site (the former BJ Tool site), which would provide future opportunities for synergistic marketing with the region's other museums, such as the clock museum in Bristol. Steve Schiller said that the Pinnacle Heights project is also ready to go.

Jonathan Rosenthal began discussing Bristol's projects, going through the prioritization matrix provided by Timothy Malone. He mentioned that Bristol's sites were in an enterprise zone and they supported the redevelopment of downtown, as well as pedestrian and transit friendly development.

After going through the prioritization matrix on a few of the projects, it was decided that due to time constraints, the number of projects, and some currently missing projects that more time would be needed. The group agreed to have all projects submitted to Timothy Malone by Friday the 27th. He will then send them out with an updated prioritization matrix so that members can rank each project on their own. Due to time constraints it was decided that these rankings should be returned by June 3rd.

Each municipal representative of the Alliance with proposed projects then gave a rundown of their projects, including the status of each of project and its history. Mike Nicastro remarked that Plainville's downtown projects could take on new importance if the Waterbury train line is extended, as the easiest method of accomplishing this extension would be to use the train yard in Plainville, making it the terminus of the line.

Rick Mullins of CCSU/ITBD, who is taking Tom Lorenzetti's place on the Alliance, gave an overview of his "University Center" project. Timothy Malone mentioned that this project would not be seeking the same sources of funding as other projects as it falls under a different EDA grant category. The project would provide entrepreneurial assistance, impact a disadvantage community, and build on the region's educational resources. The group decided that the project should be considered independently of the other projects and would provide numerous benefits to the region.

D. Discuss June meeting/public forum

The next meeting will be on June 20th and discussion of a public forum to unveil the plan was put on hold.

IV. Other Matters

Rick Mullins briefly discussed a statewide student business plan competition being held by CCSU and ITBD. The winner of the competition will be given a year incubator space/services for free.

Mike Nicastro mentioned that the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce is considering a new "business concierge" service to be located at the chamber's offices.

v. Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:59pm.