



Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Arnold Light
Chairman

(203) 431-2774
Office

Paul Levine
Robert DeFalco
John Devine
Alex Karsanidi

(203) 438-9175
Rudy Marconi,
First Selectman
www.ridgefieldct.org
economicdevelopment@ridgefieldct.org

Approved Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Commission
April 4, 2016, 7:00 PM
Small Conference Room

Present: Arnold Light, Alexander Karsanidi, John Devine, Bob DeFalco, John Collins

Guests: Mary Henwood, Richard Larson

Absent: Paul Levine

Arnold Light called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Arnold Light recorded the minutes

1. Announcements

a) Next EDC Meeting May 2, 2016

b) March 7th, minutes approval

John motioned, Bob seconded, approved.

2. Project Progress Reports

a. Ridgefield Downtown Action Committee: SCRE submitted its proposal for Phase II on March 25th, 2016. The BOS approved the budget of \$28,000 and said the proposal was contingent upon approval and review from the EDC. The EDC at the direction of the BOS approved the allocation of \$28,000 in funding for the Phase II parking and retail task forces under the direction of SCRE. The EDC acknowledged ownership, as charged by the BOS, for the direction of the Phase II task forces. Vote was 5-0, (Paul was absent).

3. Richard Larson, Chairman of the Schlumberger Committee gave a review of the final report. A public workshop will take place April 28th at the Library and a final presentation will be made to the BOS in May. Below is a summary of the current findings of the committee:

CULTURAL VISION

The Committee's vision would be to create a Cultural Center within our community that would allow us to encounter a wide range of artistic expression within a natural setting dotted with woods, gardens, wetlands and walking trails.

We envision this Cultural Destination containing three primary elements.

- A Philip Johnson Building repurposed into a new kind of American Luxury Company which encompasses architectural projects and interiors as well as impeccably crafted furniture.

- An existing indoor auditorium which would be renovated as a venue for live, professional theater promoting and presenting Broadway plays and musicals.

- Our third element would be the creation of a park for picnicking with walking and biking trails which would encase an outdoor stage/amphitheater. This amphitheater would become the centerpiece for all varieties of outdoor entertainment.

This vision allows our community to experience nature, encounter the arts and foster community through a common thread of artistic expression.

4. The EDC interviewed Mary Henwood for the final position of Commissioners on the EDC and found her to be acceptable. Mary will go before the BOS Wednesday, April 13th.

5. Alex Karsanidi will be the EDC liaison with the Branchville TOD

6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM