

**Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting
April 4, 2011; 7:00 pm
Town Hall Small Conference Room**

Unapproved/Unrevised Minutes

In attendance: Bob Knight, Bill Markus, Joy Strand, Mark Robinson, Mark Blandford, Chris Fisher

Absent: Paul Levine

Bob Knight called meeting to order at 7:19pm

Bob began by welcoming Tracey Buckley back as secretary. He then thanked the commission for their work on the initiatives.

Feedback from our annual report to the BoS

BoS liked the initiatives the EDC have begun. They would like to see the IWOW to work with Ms. Roth at the Ridgefield Chambers of Commerce. There have been several good success stories which were shared with the BoS. Discussion regarding about Rt. 7 taskforce went well. BoS have a general understanding that everyone needs to be involved in development. Discussed the desire about hiring a full time or part time person, this will not happen this year or in the near future. This means a lot of commissioner doing pro bono work. There is the possibility of getting additional commission member to increase to nine members to help with work load. Find members with specific background, legal, real estate as example. Miscellaneous discussion continued.

Route 7 Taskforce

Funding: BoS didn't approved funding of \$25,000. BoS is looking for public outreach. Fundraising may be difficult because there is not full commit to sale. There is no match commit at this point. BoS is trying to say get matching funds from the community. Miscellaneous discussion followed.

Outreach: Joy passed out survey handout to the commissioners. She explained what questions were included in the survey. Postcard will go out to everyone in Ridgefield for them to go to website. Hard copies will be available at the library. Do people living closer to Rt. 7 have more weight than someone living further away? This is a good point and question will be looked into. There are too many questions.

IWOW

Mark B. will send out invitation for event May 17. 7-9. Discussed different location. Bill will be changing location to Dayton room at the Ridgefield Library. Miscellaneous discussion followed. **Motion to approve change of room to Dayton room Chris Fisher motion, seconded by Bob Knight, motion passed 6-0.** All in all the program it's self is working well. IWOW has been able to help several businesses in town.

Development Process Review

Bill think should send to Rudy and sit down and talk. The leader needs to be someone outside the EDC. Not a short term project. Requires a lot of data collection and might require two people. Miscellaneous discussion followed.

Public outreach

Mark had nothing to report at this time. Bob would like to see something to make us known to the community every week.

Approval of minutes

None

Mark Robinson motioned to adjourned, seconded by Bill Markus.

Adjourned at 8:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Buckley