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Arnold Light, Chairman  
John Devine, Vice Chair, Secretary  
Amanda Duff  
Paul Levine  
Geoffrey Morris  
M. Augustus Ryer

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman

Unapproved RECDC Meeting Minutes  
May 13th, 2019 at 6:30pm  
Conference Room, Library

In Attendance: Arnold Light, Paul Levine, John Devine, Geoffrey Morris, Amanda Duff

Absent: Gus Ryer

Public in Attendance: Cameron Cole Carcelen

Meeting was called to order at 6:34PM. Motion by John Devine. Seconded by Amanda Duff

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Next meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. Shared Services Project: Nick Kitorides presented an update on the shared services project for the CBD. He has had conversations with several landlords and tenants that all agree that there is an opportunity to consolidate trash removal and that we should seek bids. Geoff noted that an additional benefit would be a reduction in the number of dumpsters in parking lots. Nick noted that additional areas of opportunity are snow plowing, landscaping, and parking lot maintenance. John offered to facilitate introductions to other major landlords and will introduce Nick to Jessica Wilmott who should be able to help him to reach the landlord of the CVS parking lot.
2. Retail Vacancy: John gave update about newly-signed leases in the CBD as well as a few warm leads.
3. Website + Marketing:
  - a. John gave update, distributed handout showing summary of Facebook advertising – with over 49,000 people reached in the last few months. ECDC to continue promoting.
  - b. John gave update about residential real estate portion of the ECDC website.
4. Jazz Fest: Geoffrey gave update about second “Jazz, Funk + Blues Weekend,” which will take place the weekend of Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. The lineup of events is taking shape.

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5. RIFF: Geoffrey gave update about the 2019 Ridgefield Independent Film Festival (RIFF), which will be held Oct. 10-13. Geoffrey said they're planning a few additional RIFF events for summer, 2019.
6. Energy Taskforce: Geoffrey gave update about the Energy Taskforce. Most notably, they've accomplished the tremendous task of having solar panels installed at all schools except RHS.
7. CT Conference on Tourism: Amanda gave update about the 2019 CT Conference on Tourism, which took place May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hartford Convention Center.
  - a. 2017 state tourism highlights include: 84,254 jobs directly related to tourism, 15.5 billion in total business sales, and 960 million in state + local tax revenue.
8. Jeremy Buffam went before the BOS to discuss the leasing of a Lounsbury house for the construction of a Boutique Hotel. Jeremy reported to Arnold and John that the BOS was not in favor of such a project at this location. Other locations are being looked into.
9. Arnold brought up what the next steps are in order to get the home sharing issue in front of P&Z. He said he would discuss with Rudy. He also said that another of the ECDC's mission this year would be to bring up the B2 to B1 issue once again with P&Z.
10. Arnold introduced Cameron Cole Carcelen as a candidate to fill the open position left by Karen Sulzinsky who did seek reappointment. The interview was conducted and further discussed in Executive Session.
11. Motion to adjourn at 8:05PM by John Devine. Motion seconded by Geoffrey Morris. Unanimous approval.

**Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session to review and discuss Cameron Cole Carcelen for the open position on the commission.**