



Minutes
January 4th 2023

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call ~ 5:34pm**
 - a. Commissioners: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Nishant Sahoo, Margaret Hirsch
 - b. Liaisons: None
 - c. Staff: Cierra Patrick
 - d. Presenter/ Guest: Dan Mercier (UConn Avery Point Applied to be commissioner)
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of Minutes ~**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes from October 5th 2022, November 2nd 2022, and December 5th 2022
 - i. Motion made by Nishant Sahoo
 - ii. Seconded by Matthew Longino
 - iii. Decision, 3-0-1, Margaret abstained.
- IV. **Public Comments ~ 3 minutes per person: None**
- V. **New Business: None**
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - a. Business Outreach: Nishant went over the Outreach program for those who were not at the last few meetings. Handouts for the minor facade improvements are available from staff. A few existing local businesses have reached out to city staff interested in the program.
 - b. EDC Sub-Committees/ Working Groups:
 - i. Sub Committees are paused at this time; No Updates.
 - c. Staff Report:
 - i. Economic Development Grant Program:
 1. Please note the Business Outreach section above; Staff is working with Mr. Fox on a building permit in relation to the replaced awning; once complete staff can process the grant approval.
 - ii. Upcoming Presentations/Workshop:
 1. Planning & Zoning Commission meetings should be attend by EDC.
 - iii. Project status updates:
 1. Resilience Plan:
 - a. With the completion of a Vulnerability Assessment and the overall Community Resilience Plan. Staff has shifted internal staff discussions to develop a project portfolio of ongoing and desired resilience projects by department. The project portfolio



will be shared with State agencies to identify potential funding sources/ opportunities through state and federal programs.

2. Visioning Thames Street:
 - a. In 2023 Staff is focused on implementing Placemaking projects including but not limited to:
 - i. Sidewalk art installations along Thames Street;
 - ii. Banners upgrades along Bridge Street;
 - iii. The Annual Spring-Summer planters along Thames Street; etc.
 - b. The City of Groton has purchased the Costa House.
 - c. Staff has been given the go ahead to get engineered master plans of Thames View Park taking into consideration the community and staff feedback received during the Visioning Thames Street initiative. In addition staff will work on addressing concern of parking, public restrooms, storage for the proposed boat dock / kayak launch, and a connection to Ft. Griswold.
3. Bridge Street Gateway Improvements:
 - a. Staff is working with departments to finalize the Tactical Urbanism Demonstration Plans for the intersection. The plan includes such things as, bike lanes, crosswalks, curb extension, signage, and more. Staff is also coordinating all local and state approvals to engage the community and to implement the demonstration plan in May 2023. This project has been a collaborative efforts as other departments have active projects within the project focus area. For example, Public Works is working on stromwater management and a potential rain garden installation; Police is working with UCONN's Transportation Assistance Program to provide traffic cameras and other assessment tools to evaluate before, during, and after the demonstration.
- iv. TIF:
 1. No updates
- v. Reports on Projects in City:
 1. No specific interests, but developers are calling with interests in general.
- vi. Communications:



1. Public Art: The Southeastern Cultural Coalitions 2022 Thrive event was attended by Nishant and Cierra. Nishant and Cierra also served as speakers on panel discussions. This event was an opportunity to connect with the Arts & Cultural Sector and staff was made contacts with:
 - a. "AIR" a group of artists who help communities build capacity for public art;
 - b. David Hayes Foundation who offer an outdoor sculpture program to municipalities.
2. Blue Dot Rep will be at our next meeting to assist with customizing the platform for Commission use and familiarize commissioners with platform navigation and resources.

VII. Additions to Agenda

- a. State has approved CTNext Funding for next 5 years, Thames River Innovation Place is one of the Innovation Places that will receive funding to invest into the Groton and New London communities. More information is forthcoming.
- b. Strategic Communication / Branding: the Scope of work/ services are wrapping up. Consultants are finalizing edits to the tag line Groton City: History in the Making; and planning a launch calendar internally, then publicly.
- c. Staff will send out a copy of the EDC by-laws. Commissioners held a brief discussion on the requirements for establishing a quorum. The Commission will further discuss this during our March regular meeting.

VIII. Public Comments: None

IX. Adjournment

Matthew Longino moved to adjourn meeting
Seconded By Nishant Sahoo
Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm

Submitted by: Matthew Longino & Cierra Patrick