

**City of Middletown, CT**

**Economic Development Committee**

**Parking Advisory Committee**

**Draft Minutes from the meeting of June 9, 2008**

**Economic Development Committee: G. Daley, R. Santangelo, H. Kasper, J. Bibisi,**

**Parking Advisory Committee: V. Amato, J. Alexander, L. Baldoni, I. Greenberg,**

**Absent: D. Bauer, T. Cheeseman, M. Saraceno, N. Zullo**

**Also Present: W. Warner, R. Kearney, T. Davis, S. O'Neil, C. Johnson, J Pugliese, T. Nigosanti, T. Hibbard, M. Kalita-Leary**

**A Call to Order:** Daley called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM

**B Minutes**

**C Communications**

**D Old Business**

- 1) **Presentation of report:** Warner discussed Analysis and Conclusion and Recommendations memo on how to move forward with the federal earmark parking funds along with a cost analysis and conceptual renderings and site plans for the Arcade Garage, Melilli Plaza & City Hall Employee Parking lots. Warner discussed plans to create more cohesive parking lots on the west side of Main Street. The Melilli lot would be regraded to connect with the city employee lot adding 81 unreserved spaces in the evenings and weekends. The arcade garage would be rebuilt to a 3 story garage (390 spaces) and the second floor would be extended with parking over a portion of the Police Department parking lot (80 spaces). The second floor would be raised 7 feet to the level of the Riverview Plaza with access via a new ramp to be constructed over airspace from Court Street. A better Main Street connection would be made by connecting the Plaza with the new garage and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor parking. The raising of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor would create a more inviting openness to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor which currently has a low ceiling. The rebuilt garage would leave empty land on the east side which would be used as surface parking and a future development site. Davis recommended leaving enough space between the Court and new garage to accommodate a pedestrian walkway over Route 9 to the river.

Baldoni commented that the consultant will need to work with the Police Department to ensure movement of specialty police vehicles. Baldoni noted security issues with the sally port and window security and asked the consultant to work with the PD on these issues. Baldoni suggested checking with the Superior Court House to find out what the distance requirements are for constructing a new garage near the court. General discussion ensued regarding the Dialysis Center access and parking. General discussion ensued regarding moving parking permits holders to the garage to free up surface lots for short term parking.

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Amato questioned whether the Parking Authority could be reinstated. Daley stated the PA was eliminated as a department and kept as a commission. Amato noted the parking district created the Melilli parking lot. General discussion ensued about a new Parking Department. Daley stated the move for a new department should be in tandem with the recommendations for parking improvements. General discussion ensued regarding funding the \$4M in matching funds. Daley noted the committee should present (1) the recommendations and report to a special meeting of the Common Council in July and (2) the bond referendum request to the Common Council in August. Warner stated the city needs to show its sources of funds before the project can move forward. General obligation bonds are the lower cost than revenue bonds.

Amato made a motion seconded by Kasper to move forward with the Arcade Parking Garage conceptual plans and make a presentation to a special meeting of the Common Council in July. The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Amato made a motion seconded by Santangelo to authorize Warner and Nigosanti to look into the design and costs of merging the Melilli and City Hall Employee parking lots. The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**E New Business**

- 1) **Update on extension requests:** Warner stated the lobbyist is trying to get the congressional delegation to extend the 2006 transit funds earmark which has a 3 year life
- 2) **Lobbying: Washington, DC visit:** The committee recommended the Mayor travel to Washington, DC to lobby for the extension of the earmark funds.

**F Other**

- G Adjournment:** Santangelo made a motion seconded by Kasper to adjourn at 8:19 PM. The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.