

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES
1994**

October 24,

PRESENT

G. Daley, Chair
S. Shapiro
J. Milardo
R. Santangelo
N. Conaway-Raczka

ALSO PRESENT

W. Kuehn
L. Ozga
C. Wilcox
S. Fragilio
M. Quattro
R. Fusari
G. Weitzman
Champs ?
Press ?

Chairman Daley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 208 of the Municipal Building.

Hartford Symphony/MHS:

W. Kuehn passed out a letter of support for the proposal of the Middletown High School to sponsor a program entitled "Symphony at Middletown" which will allow local high school musicians to rehearse and perform with professional musicians from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. The project is scheduled for May 1995 and Mr. Fragilio, representing the Middletown schools Cultural Council, asked the Economic Development Committee for funding of \$2,550 toward the venture. After further description of the project, Mr. Fragilio emphasized the value of the arts to the economic development and life of the community and pointed out he had raised \$9,000 already from other sectors including Liberty Bank and The Hartford Courant Foundation. The Committee asked if the funds were for the High School orchestra only, whether they were figuring in ticket sales or other local corporate giving, and what publicity was planned to attract patrons. G. Daley did not think this request was appropriate for Economic Development funds and recommended using general funds. N. Conaway-Raczka identified other sources of public funding from the Arts Commission and Cultural Council. Although the Committee agreed this was a good project, they were concerned that \$6,550 out of a \$14,000 budget was high for City support. Upon a motion by N. Conaway-Raczka, seconded by S. Shapiro, the Economic Development Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the Common Council appropriate up to \$2,000 to be used as a reserve from the General Fund for the Symphony at Middletown project; the funds to be administered through the Arts & Culture office with the provision that the Cultural Council continue to promote donations and ticket sales and to publicize the concert. W. Kuehn will draft the resolution.

Promotional Video

As there was no response from the City Attorney, a motion was made by N. Conaway-

Raczka, seconded by R. Santangelo and voted unanimously to table action on this item.

Country Club Associates

Mark Quattro and Robert Fusari were present to explain and discuss their plans for a golf course. After clarification that their request is for an extension of time of the "letter of intent" in order to ascertain the financial feasibility of their plan, Mr. Quattro pointed out that there is no option or executed lease at this time. The lease would be executed when all land use approvals and financing were in place. Two one-year extensions had been granted in 1992 and 1993 and, in 1994, they were modifying the request to include an automatic two year extension. Discussion ensued about the three holes that would be on Mr. Fusari's property and he suggested that a condition of the recommendation to the Council should be that the City have control over the entire 18 holes. J. Molardo felt that after the permitting process, the City could have the certainty of control at the time of the lease. After more discussion, N. Conaway-Raczka made a motion to table this item. There was no second to the motion. R. Fusari indicated he would not have a problem deeding his open space to the City; there would be the same conditions imposed by the Planning & Zoning anyway; and said he was willing to address this issue any way that makes sense for the City.

A motion was made by S. Shapiro, seconded by J. Milardo, that the letter of intent for Country Club Associates to persue development of a golf course on the City's property off Newfield Street be given an extension, the terms of which are to be worked out between the applicant and the City Attrorney in order to take advantage of a window of opportunity in their financial planning process. Discussion ensued. N. Conaway-Raczka still wanted to table action..... G. Daley had problems with a long extension (one to two years) with the 1992 and 1993 extensions and whether other developers were interested. S. Shapiro reminded the Committee that the applicants will need to have an agreement in place to get their financing, that the City is protected and J. Milardo noted the request was not for funds, that the City already