



**City of Danbury  
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810**

**Danbury Main Street Partnership**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 6, 2012 – 4pm**

**City Council Chambers**

**Next regularly scheduled meeting: October 4, 2012**

**Members Present:** Mayor Mark Boughton, Mike Kallas, Steve Bull, Ingrid Alvarez-Dimarzo, Andrea Gartner, Marie O'Neill, Shawn Palmer, Paul Reis, Warren Levy, James Maloney

**Members Absent:** Edward Ackell

**Staff/Guests Present:** Mike Kaltschnee – Danbury Innovation Center, Marie Miszewski, President and CEO - Regional YMCA of Western CT, Bruce Tuomala - Economic Development Director, Roger Palanzo – Mayor's Office, Lilach Asofsky – Sportsdome, John Deering, Art Cummings.

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor Boughton at 4:18pm.

Approval of minutes from August 2, 2012 meeting - Motioned by Steve Bull; Seconded by Andrea Gartner

**Old Business:**

- Mayor Boughton confirmed that downtown incentives and entertainment license proposals will be presented at a public hearing.
- Sidewalk improvements should be back on the Council agenda in October.
- A new downtown-specific UNIT officer has been assigned to work with merchants and residents to ensure adherence to all City ordinances. This proactive enforcement effort is aimed to establish a cleaner, safer and more enjoyable downtown experience for everyone.

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BY: 

## **New Business:**

- 1) Mike Kaltschee of the Danbury Innovation Center (DIC) offered a presentation and answered questions in regard to the opening of the new center on Main Street (Old Union Savings Bank building in front of Library). The Innovation Center will comprise a Hackerspace and Business Incubator office.

The DIC plan is comprised of two phases:

Phase 1 of the implementation plan will be a Hackerspace and Business Incubator office.

Phase 2 will require an additional location of 20,000+ sq/ft to accommodate the operation of a working Business Incubator.

Hackerspace highlights included:

- International movement started in Europe
- Shared workplace & community workshop
- Place to learn and be creative
- Access to advanced tool and machines
- Open houses, classes and training
- Small business resource
- Educational resource for people of all ages
- Bring businesses and people to downtown Danbury
- Establish Danbury as the Technology Hub of Western CT
- Operation funding generated from membership fees, classes and sponsors
- City to fund outfitting and maintenance of the building to accommodate DIC workspace

Incubator highlights include:

- Free flowing exchange of ideas which translate into profitable businesses and product creation
- High success rate for graduates: 50%+
- Collaborative environment
- Training, mentoring and sharing
- Encourage entrepreneurial growth in Danbury
- Positive impact on the business community
- Incubator funding generated from grants, donations, sponsors, rent from tenant companies, and facility fees

- 2) Marie Miszewski, President and CEO of the Regional YMCA of Western CT spoke briefly to the need of the Boughton Street YMCA to expand and modernize the facility. The emphasis is to find/acquire a larger location downtown to service its current and growing membership with new state of the art equipment including a new, larger swimming facility.
- 3) Andrea Gartner encouraged members to consider participating in a Connecticut Main Street Center event “Come Home to Downtown” on September 25. This initiative in collaboration with CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) will address the changing needs of Connecticut’s downtowns.
- 4) James Maloney mentioned that members should remember to keep theater and the arts as a key component of Danbury’s downtown development. Distributed supportive literature.

Motion to Adjourn – Warren Levy, Seconded – Shawn Palmer. Unanimous Acceptance.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:32pm