

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2013**

Members Present

Marty Ward, Chairman
David Spedale
Dennis Reidy
Chris Shoemaker
Rebecca Palumbo
Jay Walsh
Curt Fiedler
Kathy Mahoney
Kevin Suggs
Chris Verstrate
Antonio Rubino

Members Not Present

James Mohler
Mohammed Nofal
Robert Workman

Staff Present

Ivan Baker, Economic Development Director
Nancy Byrne, Secretary

Also Present

David Seaman, Liaison Trustee

Guests Present

Dennis Sullivan, Chicago Tribune

Chairman Ward called the September 11, 2013 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a motion made by Curt Fiedler, seconded by David Spedale, to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2013 ECC meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

There was a motion made by Kathy Mahoney, seconded by Curt Fiedler, to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as written. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

Chairman Report – Chairman Ward asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11. He welcomed Dennis Sullivan from TribLocal and also introduced new commissioner, Antonio Rubino. The commissioners introduced themselves. Marty outlined the changes to the discussion groups as follows:

Finance – Jim Mohler (Chair), Dave Spedale, Mohammed Nofal, Kathy Mahoney
Marketing – Rebecca Palumbo (Chair), Marty Ward, Jay Walsh, Bob Workman
Business Retention – Chris Shoemaker (Chair), Curt Fiedler, Chris Verstrate, Kevin Suggs
Real Estate – Dennis Reidy (Chair), Marty Ward, Antonio Rubino, Ivan Baker

Accreditation Process – Ivan stated that we are pursuing accreditation for the Economic Development Department from the International Economic Development Council. We are attempting to meet all the guidelines and become accredited by the end of April. An update to

the Strategic Plan is needed to complete the process. The Village Board set forth key goals years ago and they were reinforced in the early 90's. At this time we are brainstorming on ideas to help meet these goals.

Ivan noted that Goal No. 3 is to improve the aesthetic appearance of the village. He asked how we would accomplish this. The commissioners offered the following suggestions:

Is there a coherent view of identity?

Maybe more than one identity

Encourage business activity, employment, and other things – lots of faces

Big and diverse

Maintain quality of site, code enforcement!!!, attractiveness, – volume of business, traffic numbers

Medians should remain attractive

Long term view – make sure every single road is concrete – make sure that the roads are well maintained, and allow us to do beautification

Leverage other peoples' money

Good solid planning

Push for more bike paths, walking paths

Balance between residential and commercial and industrial development, keep providing jobs, retail development

The Brand – do we capitalize on the Brand – Market better to get our brand out

We moved here because we liked the house – maybe need to know and push the brand

Property values, schools, taxes

Keep pushing diversity of economy, the variety, location, entertainment, dining, etc, the whole thing, shopping,

Do we look for a niche?

Outside looking in – they look at the location and quality

Lifestyles vary

Need to have minimum standards – all groups – brick, landscaping

Keep the quality of being a brick town -

Maintaining housing values

Education, crime issues

Make sure we have something for every age group – more livable

Environment for people to stay and live here

Play up more that we look at art – public art – bronzes – possible brand/identity

Goal No. 4 is to protect existing property values. Suggestions from the ECC were as follows:

Enforcing building codes

Responsiveness from the village – residents and business need positive quick response from staff – and policies

Traveling in neighborhoods in areas with older homes....need to look at ways to help with this – enforce codes

Fence upkeep codes

Possible ways to nudge or encourage improvement

Be helpful and not heavy handed

Beautification programs

Reinforce and better promote public awareness – of issues relating to code enforcement

Wall of shame or Pride program to award properties

Keep high expectations – public awareness of these expectations

Dealing with poor planning issues from many years ago....different expectations...

Commercial development – lighting is an issue – building lights on the buildings need to be maintained.

Cameras – look at security benefit – safety deterrent – all over town? Individual properties – have them and move them occasionally? Now better quality

Need to create that you have a safe facility...safe area.

Maintain landscaping – think about potential crime issues relating to where landscaping is placed.

Public Awareness – do more and more communication

Need to establish a place for dialogue that will help improve the ordinances and codes

Types of businesses aim for quality standards –

Increased coordinate with the different agencies and tax jurisdictions

Trustee Report – Trustee Dave Seaman reported on the property at 191st and Harlem. He also reported that the Class 8 amendment passed in July. The owner of the former Florabella/My Bike property has applied for a Class 8 and the Finance Group is in agreement that we should move forward with this. It would also need approval from the county.

A motion was made by Rebecca Palumbo, seconded by Dave Spedale to recommend approval for the Class 8 tax reduction for the property located at 17210 S. Oak Park Avenue. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

Review of Real Estate Property – Dennis Reidy reported that the Real Estate Group recommends Industrial/Light Industrial zoning for the Hotchkin property rather than the Mixed Use/PUD zoning as indicated in the overall plan. Marty noted that this property has been discussed since the beginning of the year. The group broke down the pieces and want to let professional staff and the Board know that the ECC has reviewed this and believe that this would work when it comes time to market the property.

A motion was made by Dennis Reidy, seconded by Curt Fiedler, to recommend future Light Industrial zoning for the 100 acre Hotchkin property located at 19601 S. Harlem Avenue. The property is currently not annexed into the Village of Tinley Park. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

Dennis reported that the Real Estate Group also discussed the need for a marketing plan for properties in that area. On incentives, Cook County has a very good classification system – Residential, Industrial, Commercial and Special Incentives. Dennis discussed the various tax rates and incentives and the effect of incentives on residential tax rates. Taking this into consideration, the ECC would encourage incentives at the sales tax level. In that way, property taxes are not affected.

Ivan noted that the discussion groups have been meeting on call. He asked the groups to work out a meeting schedule. Curt asked for two weeks notice before the group meetings.

Dennis indicated that there are 26 vacant properties. For the next meeting the group will look at the Halikias property west of Odyssey at Harlem and Vollmer.

There was a motion made by Curt Fiedler, seconded by Rebecca Palumbo, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

***Reminder
Next ECC Meeting
October 9, 2013
6:30 p.m.
Fulton Conference Room***

Upcoming Events:

- Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Thurs., Oct. 31st – 8:15 a.m. Odyssey Country Club