

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014**

Members Present

Marty Ward
James Mohler
David Spedale
Dennis Reidy
Rebecca Palumbo
Jay Walsh
Curt Fiedler
Kathy Mahoney
Kevin Suggs
Chris Verstrate
Antonio Rubino
Robert Workman

Members Not Present

Chris Shoemaker
Mohammed Nofal

Staff Present

Ivan Baker, Economic Development Director
Nancy Byrne, Secretary

Also Present

Dennis Sullivan, TribLocal

Chairman Ward called the January 8, 2014 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a motion made by Curt Fiedler, seconded by Kathy Mahoney, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2013 ECC meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

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

Introduction of Guests – Chairman Ward noted that Dennis Sullivan, a reporter for TribLocal was present at the meeting.

Budget – Ivan indicated that some items for the budget are the Bankers meeting and a meeting with some business park employers this fall. Attendance is up at the Annual Business Breakfast so additional funds should be allocated. Other budget suggestions were discussed.

Discussion Group Updates –

Marketing Group – Rebecca reported on pop-up shops that were opened in vacant stores in Homewood during the holidays. The group discussed possibilities for downtown Tinley. The challenges would be finding vacant space without code issues; landlord concerns regarding a very short term lease; and the use of non-bank owned properties. This could possibly be a coordinated effort with the Farmers Market businesses. There was no recommendation from the commission.

Finance – No meeting was held in December, but they should be meeting the first week of February. Cook County tax rates were discussed. Curt mentioned that the assessments are now at 10% and 25%. Every other county is at 33-1/3% across the board. If the commercial rates were lowered, the residential tax rates would double. The State constitution allows for the classification system.

Ivan noted that the report was sent out on the Motivate Program. There were 17 instructors who talked to Juniors and Seniors this year. Curt asked about following up with these students to determine if they found a job in town after graduation.

Staff Report – Ivan presented an update on economic development projects. He outlined the program for the Annual Business Breakfast. Rick Mattoon from the Federal Reserve will give an Economic Forecast and the Mayor and Trustee Seaman will speak as well. Kathy asked if we could do a survey about what the attendees want to hear about and to have cards at the table to collect email addresses. Dennis suggested we give the speakers a subject that we want them to discuss.

Marty discussed presenting business awards at the November Village Board meeting and asked the commissioners their thoughts on presenting these awards at each of the Village Board meetings throughout the year rather than at the Business Breakfast. We would continue to acknowledge the business anniversaries at the Business Breakfast as well.

Ivan indicated that the material for the accreditation is being sent to Washington on Monday and the process should take three months.

There was a motion made by Jim Mohler, seconded by Kathy Mahoney, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reminder</i> <i>Next ECC Meeting</i> <i>February 12, 2014</i> <i>7:30 a.m.</i> <i>Fulton Conference Room</i></p>

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Business Breakfast – Wed. May 7, 2014, 7:00-9:00 a.m., T. P. Convention Center