

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014**

Members Present

Marty Ward
Dennis Reidy
Rebecca Palumbo
Jay Walsh
Curt Fiedler
Chris Verstrate
Mohammed Nofal
Chris Shoemaker
Robert Workman
Dave Spedale (via conference call)

Members Not Present

James Mohler
Kathy Mahoney
Kevin Suggs
Antonio Rubino

Staff Present

Ivan Baker, Economic Development Director
Nancy Byrne, Secretary

Also Present

David Seaman, Liaison Trustee

Chairman Ward called the February 12, 2014 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. There was a motion made by Curt Fiedler, seconded by Rebecca Palumbo, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2014 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.

Trustee Report – Trustee David Seaman discussed the proposed Home Rule Sales tax increase of 0.75% which will cost homeowners approximately \$123 per year on average. This increase in the sales tax will help to keep property taxes level. The increase will help fund the removal and replacement of the trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer and also fund the Pavement Management Program. Extra funds will have to be spent on repairing the roads after this very harsh winter. The sales tax increase would have to go to a first and second reading, and hopefully, will be effective July 1st. Food and drugs and titled goods will not be affected.

Trustee Seaman also discussed incentives and various ways to incent businesses. He gave an update on downtown Tinley and parking and the 80th Avenue train station traffic. He asked the ECC to put more time frames in the Accreditation Plan and challenged the commission to set some time points in regard to certain projects and developments.

Trustee Seaman also asked the ECC to fill out the business survey and provide their comments to Ivan about any changes that should be made to the survey.

Discussion Group Updates –

Marketing Group – Rebecca reported that their group talked about the pop-up shop idea and home-based businesses. Ivan noted that this should be a full commission analysis and each of the discussion groups should have input. He noted that less than five percent of our retail sales come from downtown Tinley, but we want to encourage people to take advantage of our core. Ivan noted that this may have to be a cooperative effort between the MainStreet Commission and ECC. We should be developing criteria about what these businesses need to do. Marty indicated that the Marketing Group will continue to discuss this and report back to the ECC. Rebecca noted that pop-ups can also be located in other parts of town.

Real Estate – Dennis said that they discussed the Mental Health Center, Central Jr. High and Panduit properties. Central Jr. High was discussed for residential, high density, etc.

Business Retention – Chris Verstrate reported that they talked about the survey and about getting information to businesses about the services that are available to them.

Update on Accreditation – Ivan reported that the Accreditation application for the Economic Development Department has been submitted and a site visit will take place in March or April. There will be private meetings with the staff, Mayor, Trustee Seaman and some business owners. Ivan noted that one-third of the items submitted by the ECC are not within his purview and that this group can only look at economic development items and come up with benchmarks. The ECC will need to take those strategies and come up with action benchmarks. The Finance Committee will look at it.

Staff Report – Ivan presented a report on existing projects and activities.

There was a motion made by Jay Walsh, seconded by Dennis Reidy, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

*Reminder
Next ECC Meeting
March 12, 2014
6:30 p.m.
Fulton Conference Room*

Upcoming Events:

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