

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2015**

**Members Present**

Marty Ward, Chairman  
Chris Shoemaker  
Rebecca Palumbo  
Jay Walsh  
Curt Fiedler  
Kathy Mahoney  
Kevin Suggs  
Antonio Rubino

**Staff Present**

Ivan Baker, Economic Development Director  
Nancy Byrne, Commission Secretary

**Members Not Present**

Dennis Reidy  
Chris Verstrate  
James Mohler  
David Spedale  
Mohammed Nofal  
Robert Workman

**Also Present**

David Seaman, Liaison Trustee  
Tom McNulty, Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Ward called the February 11, 2015 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. There was a motion made by Curt Fiedler, seconded by Kathy Mahoney, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015 ECC meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

There was a motion made by Curt Fiedler, seconded by Antonio Rubino, to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of: Discussion of Proposed Oak Park Avenue Street Reconstruction. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried.

**Chairman Report** – Chairman Ward welcomed Tom McNulty, President of the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce.

**Trustee Report** – Trustee Dave Seaman reported on the progress of the search for the new Business Retention Specialist. He also gave an update. No action required.

**Oak Park Avenue Reconstruction** – The commissioners asked about the plans for the reconstruction of Oak Park Avenue from 159<sup>th</sup> to 167<sup>th</sup> Street and the reconfiguration of the lanes. Trustee Seaman stated that the Board is only voting on approval to apply for funding. The next phase is the engineering. The business owners along that stretch of the street are concerned that reducing the street to two lanes with a center turn lane will negatively affect their businesses. Many delivery trucks drive in and out of the Rubino's parking lot each day. Trustee Seaman stated that the studies have indicated that there is no reason the street needs to be four lanes and that the Complete

Streets calls for dedicated bike lanes on each side of the street. Chairman Ward asked if the grant stipulates what the road should look like. Ivan said we would ask the Engineer for clarification.

Antonio asked if the Board could table this until a study is done about how businesses will be affected and/or a survey should be done of the businesses in the area. Antonio stated that there are ten semi-trucks going in and out of the shopping center each day. He believes this will be a big safety issue. Trustee Seaman stated that the Police will also look at it and will do a traffic study.

Ivan stated that since a preliminary study is being authorized, maybe there is some way the ECC could recommend to try to make sure that the businesses have an opportunity to provide input as part of that study to check safety, plan and traffic study issues. Trustee Seaman stated that Marty could draft a letter to the Village Engineer and tell him that concerns were expressed and he could share with you the design of the proposed plan for Oak Park Avenue. Or Robinson could attend an ECC meeting and ask where they have used this design before and show us examples. The issue should be raised sooner rather than later. Marty agreed that a letter should be drafted so the engineer is aware of the ECC's concerns. Ivan suggested that Marty and Mike Clark get together and come up with ideas for the letter.

**Strategic Plan Review** – Ivan stated that the ECC needs to review the four key goals in the Strategic Plan over the next few months to see if adjustments need to be made. This will ensure that the ECC is comfortable with the priorities that have been set. At this meeting, ECC is asked to review Goal Number One priorities.

***Goal #1 – Priorities –***

- 1.1 Okay
- 1.2 Okay
- 1.3 Change... “*all* taxing jurisdictions” to “*relevant* taxing jurisdictions”. ***Change “work to encourage” to “recommend”*** sound taxation policies that keep Tinley Park competitive.
- 1.4 Change...Market Tinley Park to attract businesses, “*customers*” and visitors to businesses, “*consumers*” and visitors.
- 1.5 Change...Expand communication programs with Area “*Banks*” to “*Lenders*”.
- 1.6 Change..“*Develop*” financial packages to “*Research and promote*” financial packages.
- 1.7 Eliminate this item
- 1.8 Okay
- 1.9 Eliminate “Maintain and expand promotional efforts to secure more economic development.”
- 1.10 Okay
- 1.11 Change...“*Fully explore*” training...” to “*Identify and promote*” training...
- 1.12 Change...“*goods and services. Business Retention efforts...*” to “*goods and services to encourage expansion and promote available real estate to attract more business.*”
- 1.13 Eliminate

**Discussion Group Updates** –

***Marketing Group*** – Rebecca reported that the group discussed events such as the baseball marketing event for consultants. A breakfast or lunch meeting for brokers and developers in Oak

Brook is under consideration. They talked about a “Set Your Sites on Tinley Park” theme for the Annual Business Breakfast. The commissioners agreed with this idea.

**Real Estate** – The group met and recapped vacant parcels. The RFQ was sent out for the Central Middle School site.

**Finance** – No report

**Business Retention** – Chris Shoemaker stated that Ivan updated the group on the Motivate Program. They talked about the Business Retention Specialist position and that this subcommittee may assist with the new hire in reaching out to the business community and smaller businesses as well. Marty met with Mike Clark and Ivan about the position and they gave their impressions on the responsibilities for the position. Mike is very concerned with the promotion of Downtown Tinley. Ivan stated that we must be realistic about expectations – as any marketing for downtown must be focused on the marketable product and demand, not just a part time staff person. Ivan stated that the Motivate Program will take place in late March and early April. They should let him know if anyone wants to help and talk about their own business.

**Staff Report** – Ivan reported that the recommendation by the Finance Group was approved for the Class 6BSEER property tax reduction for Bruske Products and is going to vote at the next two Board meetings. The Maher Funeral Home façade request was tabled. Ivan suggested that ECC help the Finance Committee to identify if we need to have additional teeth in our incentive policy to avoid any perception of double dipping. If a business qualifies for the 60% reduction on their property taxes by meeting requirements for an apartment, should they also be entitled to another incentive from the Village. What stipulations are necessary? This item will be discussed in the future.

There was a motion made by Jay Walsh, seconded by Kathy Mahoney, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reminder</b> <b>Next ECC Meeting</b> <b>March 11, 2015</b> <b>Fulton Conference Room</b></p>
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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Annual Business Breakfast – Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, T. P. Convention Center – 7:00 a.m.**