

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting
January 11, 2016**

Members Present

Curt Fiedler, Chairman
David Spedale
Dennis Reidy
Chris Shoemaker
Rebecca Palumbo
Mo Moore

Members Not Present

James Mohler
Jay Walsh
Kathy Mahoney
Kevin Suggs
Dino Sanfilippo
Robert Workman

Staff Present

Mary Havener, Tinley Park Business Retention
Nancy Byrne, Commission Secretary

Chairman Curt Fiedler called the January 11, 2016 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. There was a motion made by Dennis Reidy, seconded by Rebecca Palumbo, to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2015 ECC meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Fiedler declared the motion carried.

There was a motion made by David Spedale, seconded by Mo Moore, to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Fiedler declared the motion carried.

Introduction of Guests – Curt introduced Mary Havener, who has been making business retention visits to help the Village understand what we can do to help local businesses.

Chairman Report – Curt informed the commissioners about the Steering Committee that has been formed for development of the Master Plan for the Tinley Park Mental Health Center property. The property is in Cook County and is geared mostly toward residential development. Four to six public meetings will be held with the first meeting being on February 3rd at Central Middle School at 6:30 p.m. The goal of the Steering Committee, the engineering firm and architects is to take input from the public and determine feasibility and what is in the best interests of the community. The Steering Committee consists of 10-12 people from the Village and Curt is one of the members on the committee. The Phase II Master Plan is expected to be completed in July. Curt reminded the members that this will be a 15 to 20 year project.

Curt indicated that the Mayor and Ivan have requested that the ECC commissioners attend at least one of these public meetings to provide input from an economic development viewpoint. Nancy will email a list of the meeting dates.

Business Retention Update –Mary Havener shared some of her insights regarding her visits with local businesses. She stated that she reached out to 380 businesses since she started with the Village of Tinley Park last March and has met with 350 of them. 70% of the businesses are very happy and about 30% of the businesses had concerns. The primary concerns can be broken down into 6 major topics: Taxes, Traffic & Parking, Commercial Property Related (poor maintenance, rent or lease disputes, etc.),

Ordinance and Code, Security and Economic & Other Factors (labor & business costs, interest rates, location concerns, decreased product/service demand, etc.

The group discussed security cameras and regulations surrounding cameras and suggested contacting other communities to find out what (if anything) they require. Text and/or email communication was discussed as a means for communicating with businesses.

Several businesses asked for more input and better communication by the Village in regard to enforcing rules and laws. The group suggested using Village emails, Community Email and the Annual Business Breakfast as a vehicle. Bookmarks and/or a PowerPoint containing code enforcement tips were suggested and reminding businesses to sign up for the Community Email. Mary discussed issues with the landscape audit and signage over ten feet tall. Code enforcement issues with truck/coach bus parking on the streets near the hotels were discussed. Dennis stated that it appears that the businesses want the Village to be more flexible and that maybe we could look at our processes and/or our codes. The businesses feel there is a lack of collaboration between the village and business owners. The commissioners suggested that some time should be set aside to work together with the businesses to make Tinley Park a better place.

Curt noted that a good way to stay informed is for businesses to attend Village Board, commission and other public meetings. Rebecca suggested adding information in the Community Email about what the Board is considering in regard to street parking, signage, building codes and any other issues. Curt said businesses should be made aware of changes/enforcement beforehand. The group suggested a positive public relations campaign to revitalize the Tinley Park image. Dennis stated that what Mary has brought to the table has been terrific and we have an outline to follow. We should find out if our revenue is being affected because of these issues.

Curt made a motion to recommend that the ECC form two study groups – one on hotel truck parking and the other on the concern about the Village’s public image. Motion seconded by Mo Moore. Vote by voice call: Chairman Fiedler declared the motion carried.

Curt wants to sit down with Ivan and Mary first. Rebecca and Mo will be on the Public Image group and Dennis and one other commissioner will be on the parking group.

There was a motion made by David Spedale, seconded by Mo Moore, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Fiedler 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>Monday, February 8, 2016</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i> <i>Fulton Conference Room</i></p>
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