

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2012**

Members Present

Marty Ward, Chairman
Jerry Meyer
Dennis Reidy
Chris Shoemaker
Mohammed Nofal
Brian Hunter
Brian Godlewski
Jay Walsh
Curt Fiedler
Kathy Mahoney
Kevin Suggs

Also Present

David Seaman, Liaison Trustee
Tammy Shoemaker, Chamber Rep.

Members Not Present

James Mohler
Michael Leonard
David Spedale
Rebecca Palumbo
Chris Verstrate

Staff Present

Ivan Baker, Economic Development Director
Nancy Byrne, Secretary

Chairman Ward called the January 11, 2012 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. There was a motion made by Jerry Meyer, seconded by Mohammed Nofal, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2011 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 reported that he met with and received updates from two of the discussion groups. He encouraged the groups to meet on a regular basis. Marty noted that Ivan asked that any budget requests be provided to him this month. Ivan stated that the commission may want to plan a meeting with the bankers. Marty thanked Nancy for planning the holiday event and noted that everyone enjoyed it.

Tammy Shoemaker updated the group on Chamber of Commerce activities. The Brew & Vine Festival is set for Saturday, April 21st at the Convention Center. Tickets will be available on-line shortly - \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Commissioner Reports –

Finance Report – Mohammed Nofal reported that the Finance Group discussed a potential amendment to the Class 8 County Ordinance which allows certain property in Bremen and Rich Township to be taxed at the residential rate instead of the commercial rate. For approval by the

Board, the property must be vacant for 24 months and have special circumstances. They discussed amending the 24 month rule and reducing the time requirement to six or 12 months. If a change is made it could potentially include all of Cook County, not only certain townships. Trustee Seaman indicated that Cook County seemed receptive to the idea.

Real Estate Report – Dennis reported that their group discussed Rich Township and that staff is compiling a report of the vacancies in the area.

Marketing Report – Jay Walsh reported that the first Business Seminar is scheduled for February 8th at Moraine Valley Community College in Tinley Park. He passed out the flyer and noted that it will be advertised in the Chamber Mailbag and Tinley Junction. Rebecca will begin social media posts next week. At their next meeting they will discuss the storefront project and a theme for the Business Breakfast. Jay asked anyone with a theme suggestion to send it to him or Rebecca. Ivan noted that the testimonials worked out well except length of presentations.

Business Retention Report – Chris Shoemaker reported that their group will meet on January 24th to discuss getting CEO's and business owners together with high school students to talk about workforce skills and job opportunities in the community after high school. Curt suggested taking the students to see first-hand how different operations work. Trustee Seaman indicated that this should be directed at freshman and sophomore students. The Math Department coordinator at Andrew is taking a lead interest in this coordinated effort. Ivan asked the Business Retention group look at options and to come back to the ECC with a proposal.

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

There was a motion made by Dennis Reidy, seconded by Mohammed Nofal, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

<p style="text-align:center"><i>Reminder</i> <i>Next ECC Meeting</i> <i>February 8, 2012</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i> <i>Kallsen Conference Center</i></p>

Upcoming Events:

- *Finance Group - Tues., Feb. 7th - 6:30 p.m., Kallsen Conference Center, Village Hall*
- *OPAMA Meeting – Thurs., Feb. 9th – 8 a.m., VFW Hall*
- *ECC Small Business Toolbox – Feb. 8th – 8 a.m., Moraine Valley CC, Tinley Park*
- *Chamber of Commerce Mtg. – Thurs., Feb. 23rd – 8:15 a.m., Odyssey Country Club*
- *ECC Small Business Toolbox – March 21st – 8 a.m., Moraine Valley CC, Tinley Park*