

**Economic & Commercial Commission Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2012**

Members Present

Marty Ward, Chairman
Rebecca Palumbo
Mohammed Nofal
Brian Hunter
Jay Walsh
Curt Fiedler
Kathy Mahoney
Chris Verstrate
Jerry Meyer

Members Not Present

Kevin Suggs
James Mohler
Michael Leonard
David Spedale
Dennis Reidy
Chris Shoemaker
Brian Godlewski

Also Present

David Seaman, Liaison Trustee

Staff Present

Ivan Baker, Economic Development Director

Chairman Ward called the March 14, 2012 Economic & Commercial Commission meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. There was a motion made by Rebecca Palumbo, seconded by Brian Hunter, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2012 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 Dave Seaman mentioned the progress with the Findzall marketing plan for downtown but we want to make sure the programs and initiatives are available for the entire community. He reported that the budget meeting took place on March 13th and it looks good. The process went well. Trustee Seaman stated that we are looking at an optimistic environment with more activity and opportunity for a variety of business growth. We need to encourage manufacturing. The Village should finish the year strong. We will be restoring some personnel on the Police and Fire Department. Revenue projections are optimistic including a 70 percent funded pension – which is high. We need to watch for the effect of other government's unfunded pensions.

Commissioner Reports –

Finance Report – Mohammed Nofal reported that they were reviewing incentive policies as related to potential new commercial development.

Marketing Report – Rebecca Palumbo reported that they received approval on the Business Breakfast recommendations including testimonials. There was a discussion that Clerk Rea could discuss trends for on-shoring.

Business Retention Report – Curt Fiedler presented the report. The commission reviewed the syllabus for a “Motivate Program” in the high schools. There was discussion that the program should include some sort of audio/visual component.

Brian Hunter moved to accept the “Motivate” syllabus and encourage development of the program. Jay Walsh seconded. Motion passed.

Curt stated that they expect to do a pilot speaker presentation at Andrew High School before the end of May.

Staff Report – Ivan presented an update on projects. Vacancy rates have gone down with the new business activity. Duvan Industrial Park was at 26 percent vacancy. It is now at 11 percent.

There was a motion made by Mohammed Nofal, seconded by Jay Walsh, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Ward declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reminder</i> <i>Next ECC Meeting</i> <i>April 11, 2012</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i> <i>Kallsen Conference Center</i></p>

Upcoming Events:

- *Real Estate Group – Tues., April 17th – 6:45 a.m., Egg & I*
- *Marketing Group – Tues., April 24th – 8:00 a.m., Crossmark*
- *Business Retention – Tues., April 24th – 7:30 a.m. Eggheadz Café*
- *Finance Group – Tues., May 7th – 6:30 p.m., Kallsen Conf. Center*
- *ECC Annual Business Breakfast – Wed., May 2nd – 7 a.m., Convention Center*
- *Chamber of Commerce Mtg. – Thurs., April 26th – 8:15 a.m., Odyssey C.C.*
- *ECC Small Business Toolbox – April 11, May 9, June 13 – 8 a.m., Moraine Valley Community College, Tinley Park*