



CITY OF ELMHURST

**209 NORTH YORK STREET
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126-2759**
(630) 530-3000
www.elmhurst.org

PETER "PETE" DICIANNI
MAYOR
PATTY SPENCER
CITY CLERK
DAVID DYER
CITY TREASURER
JAMES A. GRABOWSKI
CITY MANAGER

**Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2011
City Hall – Conference Room 2**

Present: Kurt Warnke, Chair, Bill Shanklin, Maryann Gorski, Diane McGinnis, Rich Reichert, Steve Moskal, Trisha Hall

Absent: Mark Sabatino, Vice Chair, Don Meyers, Bill Huber, Nicola Lostumbo, Dan Leahy

Also Present: Kevin York, James Grabowski, Mike Kopp, Tom Paravola, John Quigley, Ken Bartels

The EDC was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Kurt Warnke, Chair.

The EDC Minutes of October 28, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Trisha Hall, owner of the McDonald's on North York was introduced as a new EDC Commissioner. Kurt presented Mayor DiCianni's plan to further expand the EDC from its' current membership size of 12 to "up to 15" members. The EDC agreed and this will be shared with the Mayor. Expansion will assist with community coverage, citizen involvement and EDC expertise. Also mentioned was the offer of additional Commissioner business cards should any Commissioner be in need for a re-order.

James Grabowski updated the EDC on City efforts with possibly selecting a single, City-wide, electricity provider, likely increasing water rates due to Chicago passing along costs to DuPage County residents, the budget process for 2012-13, the Addison LLC retail/deck project and Hahn Street discussions. John Quigley asked about stronger EDC involvement in major economic development initiatives in Elmhurst and City staff and consultants will review how this would best be accomplished given the nature of these types of initiatives, City Council direction and authority and privacy concerns.

Mike Kopp discussed the ongoing review of the Strategic Plan for Economic Development that was adopted by the City Council in 2010 and has been our overall blueprint for EDC activities since. Mike requested that Commissioners re-read the plan and share with him any comments and thoughts. Much of the plan has been engaged and many items are ready for next steps. A report to the City Council early in 2012 indicating accomplishments and new ideas as well will be pursued. In addition, at the EDC meeting on December 16, 2011, a SWOT analysis (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats) related to the plan will be conducted for further Commissioner input. The SWOT will likely take up the majority of our meeting time in December.

Ken Bartels reported that the wayfaring signage for the two, North business park streets is being addressed by the Public Works Department and that the sandwich board signage idea has been shared with Than Werner for his review and determination of appropriate action. Furthermore, Mike, Ken, John and Cathy Maloney have begun the process of determining the best solution to our master business list desire for both basic information and communication efforts. It is quite complex and will require some time. John updated the EDC on the "Got It!" campaign thus far and meetings on business education in Elmhurst that are underway and ongoing.

There were nine retention visits since our October meeting. Retention visit questions, seeking emails from these visits, as well as, follow-up ideas were briefly discussed.

The St. Charles Road & Route 83 strip mall will have its "ribbon-cutting" on November 21, 2011. The EDC has been invited to attend. The Retail Grants Program has received additional funding from the City Council for the remainder of the budget year. The RGP has been very popular in 2011. EDC meeting dates for 2012 were distributed.

The next EDC meeting will be December 16, 2011 changed from December 23.

The EDC adjourned at 8:58 a.m.