

Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Minutes of Friday, February 28, 2014
City Hall – Conference Room 2

Present: Kurt Warnke, Chair, Mark Sabatino, Vice Chair, Diane McGinnis, Rich Reichert, Trisha Hall, Don Meyers, Tim Ricordati, Maryann Gorski, John Poulos, Bill Shanklin, Jason Janes, Barbara Rieske-Schau, Steve Moskal

Absent: Kurt Schiele, Bill Huber

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

Kurt Warnke, Chair called the EDC to order at 7:35 a.m.

The Minutes of the January 24, 2014 EDC meeting were approved as submitted.

Ken Bartels reported that he has contacted Commissioners Sabatino, Gorski, Reichert, Janes and Hall regarding their intents pertaining to their current EDC appointments expiring on April 30, 2014. Ken also reviewed the EDC Districts information shared since the last EDC meeting. All commissioners should have everything they need now to operate within their districts. Questions should be directed to Ken. John Quigley stated that if the commissioners in any district wish to partner with a Chamber representative in their areas, they can contact John for coordinative assistance.

Commissioners Gorski, Hall and McGinnis reported on the “Women in Management” event, sponsored by the EDC at the Wilder Mansion on February 18, 2014. The event which drew nearly 100 guests was deemed very successful with very significant, positive feedback from attendees. There will certainly be a similar event in the future but no specific plans right now. The suggestion of finding future sponsors for such events will be part of ongoing discussion as will a modest fee for attending. There was also mention of the possibility of partnering with the Elmhurst Chamber, and featuring a speaker topic on “opening a new business” at their Business to Business EXPO on May 15, 2014 at the Diplomat West.

Mike Kopp told the EDC that the Zoning & Planning Commission voted 6-3 to endorse the Addison Deck project at 65’ with only two, requested modifications. The recommendation will now go to the City Council. The City is in negotiation with Morningside, its Hahn Street project developer, to insure proper City-sharing on profits via the project. The project will be going to the ZPC soon. Commonwealth Edison is already planning for burying its lines in the area. Houseal-Lavigne conducted a “visioning session” at City Hall on February 25, 2014 pertaining to the North York Plan. More than 50 attended and there was strong consensus on priorities. An Elmhurst College assisted survey of new retail/service businesses in ten communities near Elmhurst has been completed around a general question, “why didn’t you locate in Elmhurst”? The findings, just received, will be shared at a future DPZ Committee meeting and also at a future EDC meeting. Comments were also shared on the Waverton site, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Steven’s site and others. Mike also thanked Commissioner Warnke for his personal assistance to a business owner in the new North York TIFIV. General discussion on the losing of several businesses from the North Business Park to Wood Dale and Addison due to availability of high ceilings and large square footage.

There were eight retention visits reported. There was also discussion on ways to potentially follow-up on retention visits and possible city recognition of businesses which have shown loyalty to Elmhurst.

John Quigley told the EDC of the recent multi-chamber event held at Oak Brook Hills Resort pertaining to the US economic outlook for 2014 and beyond. Over 300 attendees were at the event and the EDC might wish to be a table presenter in the future. An EDC banner has been ordered for future events as well. The Retail Broker event is in the process of date selection by Cathy Maloney. The City is working on hiring a communications manager and an assistant in zoning and planning hopefully by the end of April.

Diane McGinnis shared that the former hospital site at Berateau is now owned by Nitti Builders. Mike indicated that the current plan is for 56 new homes, all to be built by Nitti, over the next several years. The plan request will be going to the ZPC on March 17, 2014 as it stands now.

The next EDC meeting will be on March 28, 2014 and will feature a guest presentation.

The EDC was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Submitted by Ken Bartels.