

**Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 24, 2014
Elmhurst Public Library**

Present: Mark Sabatino, Chair, Bill Shanklin, Vice Chair, Maryann Gorski, Trisha Hall, Steve Moskal, Diane McGinnis, Rich Reichert, John Poulos, Bill Huber, Brian Stolper

Absent: Don Meyers, Tim Ricordati, Barbara Rieske-Schau, Kurt Schiele

Also Present: Steve Morley, Kevin York, Scott Levin, Mike Kopp, Tom Paravola, Kevin Leighty, Ken Bartels

Special Guests: Tom Livingston, President, Village of LaGrange and Pat Benjamin, EDC, Village of LaGrange

The EDC was called to order at 7:36 a.m.

The EDC Minutes of September 26, 2014 were approved as submitted.

There were no public comments.

Mike Kopp updated the EDC on the Hahn Street Development, Wilder Crossing and townhomes on the former Brown's Chicken site. The DPZ Committee of the City Council is discussing a possible RFP for the Addison Street municipal parking lot. The Addison Deck should begin construction in November. Waverton site demolition is dependent on pending lease negotiations.

On October 20, 2014, Mike, Mark Sabatino and Bill Shanklin provided the updated economic development presentation to the City Council where it was well received. Mayor Steve Morley added that the EDC is clearly seen as a champion for business in Elmhurst.

Mark formally introduced Mayor Morley who then provided a welcome to our two special guests, Tom Livingston, President of the Village of LaGrange and Pat Benjamin, Community Development Director for LaGrange. Tom and Mark are college friends from the University of Illinois. Through remarks by both Tom and Pat, it became obvious that both Elmhurst and LaGrange have many similarities although Elmhurst is about three times bigger. LaGrange is in Cook County with a population of approximately 15,000. It features two, primary arterial streets in Ogden Avenue and Lagrange Road and has one, principal retail/dining 'downtown'. They have faced the competition issues from Oak Brook Center as Elmhurst has. They embraced a downtown TIF in 1986 that recently ended. TIF activity included a restored theater, parking deck, façade grants and an SSA. LaGrange has directed a great deal of their efforts within a 'transit-oriented development' concept plan and their comprehensive plan as well. They are currently discussing a 254 apartment building to add density to their downtown area. They may also implement a sales tax in the future. Parking, dining and entertainment, small retail are all issues for them as they move within their economic development efforts. Their 'EDC' is beginning a revitalization.

Ken Bartels again reminded the commissioners that there is one EDC vacancy and that they should be thinking about potential nominees. Send names to Ken or Mark.

Retention visits were not covered at this meeting. They will be an emphasis agenda item in November.

The next EDC meeting will be on November 21, 2014, one week earlier than normal, and will be held at the Elmhurst College offices in the 180 West Park building with Commissioner Tim Ricordati as our host.

The EDC was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Submitted by Ken Bartels.