

**Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes – Friday, September 25, 2015
Elmhurst Public Library – Kossmann Room**

Present: Bill Shanklin, Chair, Rich Reichert, Vice Chair, Chris LaBounty, Tim Ricordati, Maryann Gorski, Kurt Schiele, Brian Stolper, Steve Moskal, Trisha Hall, Diane McGinnis, Bill Huber, Don Meyers

Absent: Mark Anglewicz, Barbara Rieske-Schau

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

Guests: Bryan Blank, Brendan Fitzharris

The EDC was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

The EDC meeting minutes from August 28, 2015 were approved as submitted.

There was one, public comment. Brendan Fitzharris, owner of Fitz's Spare Keys and Fitz's Pub in Elmhurst addressed the EDC regarding video gaming in Elmhurst. He provided financial information and specifics about video gaming and its effects on his businesses in terms of lost revenue. He asked the EDC to take a position in favor of video gaming.

Bryan Blank of the Elmhurst Public Library took the EDC on a tour of the newly remodeled and changed second floor of the building. More space for meetings, business assistance and youth activities were highlighted as was the expanded available technology.

Bill reported that the EDC North District team had met and he encouraged the other EDC District teams to do so as well. Please review the Districts and their membership prior to the EDC's next meeting. Both were shared after last month's meeting via email. Bill also indicated that the one EDC vacancy remains. Ken Bartels noted two items. One, the annual EDC planning meeting will be on November 20, 2015 at the Community Bank of Elmhurst in its second floor Hammersmith Community Room. Two, a tentative EDC calendar for 2016 is provided in the meeting handouts.

There were ten retention visits made since last meeting.

Mike Kopp indicated to the EDC that the ongoing work to create a City of Elmhurst Strategic Plan is also creating multiple projects potentially for the EDC. He and Ken have discussed the plausible establishment of several EDC sub-committees to address selected economic development issues. The potential sub-committees could be: development sites prioritization, review and refine the zoning code, potential anchor tenants for downtown, potential anchor businesses for the business parks. TIF circumstances would also be involved with several of these. Further details on these sub-committees and the potential work plans will be forthcoming. Using part of the monthly EDC meeting for sub-committee work would be one part of the plan.

Mike also updated the EDC on the Downtown Plan, Elmhurst 255, Addison Deck, Waverton site, Thornton's, Fitness Formula Club and Gerber.

John Quigley reported that DuPage County is the second best county in Illinois for Visitor and Tourism activity. Tom Paravola provided some insights into future City Centre parking allocation discussions. He also shared that 'Rock the Block' was very successful. Mike reported that the trolley also received overall favorable results. Trisha Hall inquired as to the status of the City's signage review. Mike indicated that it continues to be discussed at the DPZ Committee. There is progress but the sign code is complex and lengthy.

Bill indicated that a discussion of video gaming and the EDC's position on same will be on the EDC agenda at its next meeting on October 23, 2015.

The EDC adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Submitted as a draft by Ken Bartels.