

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, October 7, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Bryan Gay. Other Committee Members present were: Matthew Weberling, Nick Pitzer, Brian Liedtke, Thomas Papais, and Robert Hahn. Also present was Mayor Joe Marchese and City Clerk JoAnne Ragona, who swore in Committee Member Robert Hahn.

2. Public Comment

Roger Blomgren (Baird & Warner Real Estate), Fred Davis and Jean Freeman (Property Owners), were present and provided a detailed multi-page handout describing a potential request to rezone two (2) parcels at 1220/1225 Plainfield Road. The owners hope to develop housing and offices to attract buyers for both parcels. After significant discussion related to well water conversion costs, adjacent single-family parcels and HOA concerns, and the estimated combined value of the parcels, the presenter and owners thanked the Committee and departed.

Committee action item for Chairperson Bryan Gay to discuss with Jordan Yanke, City Staff. At the meeting it was suggested that if a zoning option is considered it could involve OR&I Zoning. Both parcels need development, as this location has lacked a meaningful plan for years.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2021

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Economic Development Workshop Planning & Discussion

Committee discussion regarding Economic Development Workshop slated for October 23, 2021. Mayor Joe Marchese revealed the history related to economic planning efforts dating back to 2008, and indicated a clear strategy for Darien's growth needs to be addressed. The workshop/training session package was provided to the Committee for the five (5) hour program. It was stated that there are 18 confirmed attendees for the workshop, with a probability of as many as 23 attendees.

b) New Topic Discussion

None.

5. Old Business

a) Previous Follow Up/Hanging Matters

None.

6. Next Scheduled Meeting

Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 4, 2021.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

BRYAN GAY, CHAIRPERSON