

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
****Rescheduled Meeting****
Thursday, September 14, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Committee members present were Jonathan Christ, Bob Hahn, Lou Mallers, and Tom Papais. Also present was Alderperson Gerry Leganski and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – August 3, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Business Visits by EDC Members

- i. Business Survey**
- ii. Business List (Ward 4 & Ward 5)**
- iii. Mission Statement & Incentive Overview**

The Committee went through the list of businesses provided and each member was assigned a couple businesses to initiate visits by the EDC. The survey, mission statement, and incentive overview are talking points for the members. Staff is to send an email to each member confirming the business assignments and talking points and the members will perform the initial visits prior to the next EDC meeting in October. During that meeting more businesses will be assigned and the Committee will discuss what worked and what doesn't in terms of visiting businesses and obtaining surveys.

b) New Development Ideas

The Committee stated a need for not only business retention and starting the visits by members, but also the need to push for more economic development efforts to attract businesses and beautify the City. Committee wants to push for a proactive approach and initiate projects to more specifically work on going into 2024. Council support will be important and project ideas discussed pertained to an east/west beautification project through the City and revamping

the incentive process, or defining it more clearly and getting information on it to current and prospective businesses.

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Update – Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion

City Planner Jordan Yanke stated there are no substantial updates on any of the key areas. The Committee was informed of a special use zoning application for an auto collision center proposed at Lemont Road/83RD Street in the vacant building (former CVS pharmacy).

6. Staff Updates & EDC Member Updates

Chairperson Papais gave update on Chamber of Commerce activities and events.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM.

APPROVED: _____
CHAIRPERSON