

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, December 19, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM. Committee members present were Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Bob Taft, and Steve Wernecke. Also present were Alderman Gerry Leganski, City Clerk JoAnne Ragona, and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

Resident Fiyaz Khan was in attendance and introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. Khan spoke on his professional experience and gave comment in support of economic development efforts. The Committee stated the importance of public input and asked Mr. Khan to stay involved.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Recap of Business Visits (Ward 4 & Ward 5)

i. Business List (Ward 4 & Ward 5)

ii. Surveys & Feedback from Businesses

Recap discussion took place regarding the business visits throughout Ward 4 and Ward 5. Talks ensued about what worked well during each member's visits. Committee decided Ward 6 businesses will be next to visit with a goal of visiting all businesses by end of 2024. Upon completion next year staff and the Committee will develop a report with findings based on feedback from business owners and other representatives so it can be presented to the City Council.

b) Year-End Review & Objectives for 2024

The Committee reaffirmed priority to streamline and refine the incentive application process for businesses. Beautification projects should also remain a top priority with Committee involvement/input.

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 updated on current zoning/development cases and that discussions efforts are ongoing regarding Chestnut Court redevelopment and talks began with Hinsbrook Center ownership.

6. Staff Updates & EDC Member Updates

Chairperson Papais gave update on Chamber of Commerce activities and briefly touched on the DarienFest 2024 planning and preparation.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2024.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

APPROVED: _____
CHAIRPERSON