

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, October 5, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM. Committee members present were Bill Carpenter, Bob Hahn, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Bob Taft, and Matt Weberling. Also present was City Planner Jordan Yanke. The Committee welcomed newest member Bill Carpenter.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Business Visits by EDC Members

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

The remaining businesses in Ward 4 and Ward 5 were assigned to Committee members to visit. The survey, mission statement, and incentive overview are talking points for the members. Similar to the prior month when the first business visits were assigned, staff is to send an email to each member confirming the business assignments and talking points for the members when they do the visits. Members are to provide a summary of their visits and submit completed surveys to staff.

b) New Development Ideas

The Committee reaffirmed comments from past meetings and stated a need for not only business retention through 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 updated on current zoning/development cases.

6. Staff Updates & EDC Member Updates

Chairperson Papais gave update on Chamber of Commerce activities and events with specific reference to Business Builder Workshop.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM.

APPROVED: _____
CHAIRPERSON