

Elmhurst Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2010 – 7:30 a.m. – City Hall, Conference Room 2

Present: Betsy Hanisch, Don Meyers, Rich Reichert, Diane McGinnis, Dan Leahy

Absent: Mark Sabatino, Dan Hiffman, Kurt Warnke, Kevin York, Alderman, Tom Borchert, City Manager

Also Present: Mike Kopp, Assistant City Manager, John Quigley, Ex-Officio, Tom Paravola, Ex-Officio, Ken Bartels, Consultant

Chairman Betsy Hanisch called the Commission to Order at 7:30 a.m. The Minutes of the January 22, 2010 meeting were approved.

Mike Kopp updated the EDC on the status of the Hahn Street project. It will be going from the DPZ Committee to the City Council for discussion regarding a request from the developer for some changes in the project. There is an altered site plan that results in fewer units (103 from 109) and a different space configuration overall. The DPZ Committee is also looking at a conditional use requirement for new banks in the City. Rich Reichert noted that banks are major contributors to civic and philanthropic endeavors in the City as something to keep in mind if this change moves forward.

Mike also discussed the Retail Grant Program and the Façade Program as items that need revisiting. There was \$50,000 for the RGP in the City's 2009-10 budget of which \$20,000 remains. In the City's 2010-11 budget the RGP is currently funded at \$30,000. Discussion about whether restaurants should be eligible in the future and whether there should be a change in the dollar formula. No consensus was reached by the EDC and Mike will review this further with the RGP Selection Group. The Façade Program which is budget funded at the \$100,000 level can provide businesses with assistance of 1/3 of expense up to \$20,000 or up to \$50,000 if all life safety elements are covered. The Schiller Court upgrade was included in 2009. This program might need to be reviewed as well. Mike will keep the EDC informed. John Quigley wondered if the RGP and the Façade Program ought to be linked in some fashion?

The Commissioners present and others provided verbal and written Retention Visit Reports as agreed to last month. Each Commissioner is to make at least one retention visit each month. 11 reports were received and noted from Commissioners and Ex-Officios present. Ken Bartels also provided 17 such reports. These efforts were cited as very important and will be continued. A master list of all retention visits made to date will be provided to the EDC.

Mike updated the EDC on Lucky Motors' move into Elmhurst at 813 N. Church Street. Don Meyers reported that Maddock Douglas is looking for increased space if such cannot be secured at their present location.

Ken shared that there is strong interest on the part of businesses in the "industrial parks" within Elmhurst to perhaps change their "name" from "industrial park" to something else that could lead to a new, branding, change opportunity. Dan Leahy said that most such areas are "business centers or

corporate centers". Ken also indicated that these same businesses state an interest in an "association" similar to Spring Road and York and Vallette. Such an association was once an active group within the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Ken and John will discuss whether the Chamber might have interest in the idea again. If an association is created, they might be a good group to consider and recommend a location name change.

Ken mentioned that a new EDC member is in process and after that filing there will be further discussion of a member/size increase for the EDC as the still pending Strategic Plan calls for advancing.

Betsy adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Submitted as a draft by Ken Bartels.