

Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2010 – City Hall- Conference Room 2

Present: Betsy Hanisch, Mark Sabatino, Bill Huber, Diane McGinnis, Don Meyers

Absent: Rich Reichert, Kurt Warnke, Dan Leahy, Dan Hiffman

Also Present: Mike Kopp, Tom Borchert, Kevin York, John Quigley, Tom Paravola, Ken Bartels

The EDC was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman, Betsy Hanisch.

The Minutes of the March 26, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

Several current Commissioners are due for Mayoral re-appointment. Dan Hiffman may not seek re-appointment. Kurt Warnke, Dan Leahy, Diane McGinnis and Don Meyers will likely seek re-appointment. That process is underway.

New Commissioner Bill Huber of McMaster-Carr Supply Corporation was introduced to the EDC. It was noted that after the re-appointment process is completed, then the EDC can proceed with a request for commissioner expansion from nine to twelve. This will require City Council approval. In the interim, please submit possible name suggestions to Betsy Hanisch, Mike Kopp or Ken Bartels.

John Quigley reported on the effort of the Elmhurst Chamber's Membership Committee to do retention visits with the over 100 food and beverage businesses in the City. This is a Chamber/EDC partnership. On April 14th, the Chamber hosted three sessions on marketing for the food and beverage businesses that were well-received. Non-Chamber members and then Chamber members will be called upon regarding economic development questions. John will report on this effort's status at our May 28th EDC meeting.

John and Ken Bartels also commented on a meeting scheduled for May 19th to consider the creation of a Chamber Business Park Association. Aldermen Leader and Shea will be present and it will be hosted by OEC.

Mike Kopp and Ken Bartels commented on the City Council's approval of the contract with Cathy and Mark Maloney of Findzall, Inc. Findzall will work with retail business inquiries, recruitment, web site status updates, City-wide available properties listing and endeavors on the internet. Their eight-hour-a-week contract begins on May 1st.

Tom Borchert reported that the City's 2010-2011 budget had passed the City Council on April 19th. The budget is balanced but is very tight and may need to identify additional revenue sources going forward through the year. These may include a motor fuel tax and an increase in rubbish collection fees. Other concerns include the possible reduction in the state's revenue sharing and the possible take-over of the DuPage Water Commission by the DuPage County Board. All of this will be monitored carefully. The EDC Strategic Plan will be on the City Council agenda for approval on May 3rd.

Mike Kopp and Tom Paravola shared that the Retail Grant Program guidelines are being re-drafted with changes and that these changes will be shared with the EDC at some point in the future. This will be prior to their being proposed to the City Council for approval. The RGP is funded in the new City budget at \$30,000, down from \$50,000.

The EDC members and others shared their retention visit reports. There were 8 made since the last meeting.

It was asked that a recent retail sales report created by Melaniphy & Associates be shared for discussion at the next EDC meeting. The EDC was also encouraged to review information on the City's web site for solid information to include in retention visits.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. with the mention that May 28, 2010 is the next EDC meeting.

Submitted as a draft by Ken Bartels.