

Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2010 – City Hall – Conference Room 2

Present: Betsy Hanisch, Mark Sabatino, Diane McGinnis, Don Meyers, Rich Reichert, Dan Leahy, Kurt Warnke

Absent: Bill Huber, Dan Hiffman, Mike Kopp

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

The EDC was called to order by Betsy Hanisch, Chair, at 7:32 a.m.

The Minutes of the April 23, 2010 and May 28, 2010 EDC meetings were approved.

A brief review discussion regarding the presentation of the EDC's Strategic Plan for Economic Development to the full City Council on June 21, 2010 was held. The Council accepted and approved the plan with a vote of 14-0. Kevin York indicated that his fellow Council members were impressed with the plan and with the work of the EDC and its Commissioners. Tom Borchert shared the same feelings. At that point a motion was made and seconded for the EDC to recommend to the Council's DPZ Committee that the EDC's size be increased to 12 Commissioners from the currently authorized 9 positions. This increase would both expand the possible work to be accomplished and increase the depth and breadth of the EDC itself. Motion passed. Suggestions for possible new Commissioners can be directed to Ken Bartels.

Tom Borchert and Ken Bartels provided some City Updates. There will be a "brokers/owners" tour of available properties in Elmhurst on September 30, 2010 in the late afternoon. Further details will be forthcoming. The EDC will in the future begin to hear about possible new TIFs in the City. A TIF research advisor is being sought. The Grand Avenue/I-294 project is moving forward even if it is 3-4 years out. It is a massive \$3 Billion dollar project potentially with significant positive economic impacts for Elmhurst and its surrounding communities. Tom later showed Commissioners the actual proposed drawings and shared that displaced businesses might be potential re-locations for Elmhurst. An analysis of these businesses with comparisons to existing properties in Elmhurst needs to be done. An early City outreach to these businesses was encouraged.

Retention visits were reported. 28 visits were made since the last meeting. 15 of these were made by Elmhurst Chamber volunteers on food and beverage businesses. An updated EDC Retention Visit List will be shared soon.

John Quigley presented a "Shop/Buy" Elmhurst proposal on behalf of the Elmhurst Chamber. It requests City Council approval for \$25,000 for a four-segmented approach to encouraging Elmhurst citizens to shop and buy in Elmhurst. The proposal will be shared as a next step with the Council's DPZ Committee at a future meeting. Ken Bartels will share the proposal with EDC members not present shortly.

An update on the status of the possible changes to the Retail Grant Program was deferred to the July EDC meeting.

It was suggested that at a future meeting that a presentation to the EDC of the signage ordinance and code upgrade requirements for new businesses and owners be planned. Mike Kopp will be advised. Digital billboards on City property were mentioned as a helpful addition to the car dealers and business parks and might be revenue sources as well.

The next EDC meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 23, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. at City Hall.

The EDC was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Submitted as a draft by Ken Bartels.