

**Elmhurst Economic Development Commission**

**Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2011**

**City Hall, Conference Room 2**

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

Absent: Kurt Warnke, Bill Huber, Dan Leahy, Dan Hiffman, Mark Sabatino

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

The EDC was called to order at 7:02 a.m. by acting chair, Rich Reichert.

The EDC Minutes of January 28, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Rich Reichert mentioned that both Kurt Warnke, chair and Mark Sabatino, vice chair were away on business.

Ken Bartels indicated to the EDC that Mayor Pete DiCianni is expected to name four new EDC commissioners during the month of March. Ken also highlighted news regarding Elmhurst Ford, Copper Kitchen, Park Place Loft, Fontano's, Bianca Rose and Chamberlain. Some handouts were provided on green buildings, strip malls, January occupancies in Elmhurst and some local press coverage on Elmhurst Ford and Chamberlain. There will be a Retail Brokers Tour on April 28 at Café' Amano and coordinated by Findzall Community Marketing.

Mike Kopp reported that the City's budget is being created for 2011-12 and that local elections are forthcoming on April 5. The Hahn Street project is also again active and the last several months have seen an increase in local retail sales taxes.

Mike then led the EDC through a general and informal discussion of five possible new TIF locations within the city: Lake and Grand, North York, York and Vallette, York and Butterfield and Riverside Drive. He and Ken outlined some current staff thinking on the sites and explained that recently three consulting firms have been asked to submit their thoughts on the five sites and their potentials and shortcomings. Should the City Council determine to do some additional TIFs, one of these three firms will be contracted to do actual evaluations on the selected sites. Mike and Ken felt that two or three new TIFs might be considered and approved. It was suggested that all EDC commissioners visit all five sites and form their own impressions before the March 25 EDC meeting. At that meeting the TIF discussion will be continued. Ken or Mike will be in contact with the commissioners absent from the meeting regarding this request.

John Quigley reported that he will present the Elmhurst Chamber's Shop/Buy proposal to the city's Development, Planning and Zoning Committee on February 28. Also, additional visits by he and Ken in recruitment of automobile dealerships into the Wheels and Deals consortium will continue. Ken mentioned that he, Mike and Than Werner would begin to review the city's business signage regulations shortly for a report back to the EDC.

The next EDC meeting will be on March 25, 2011.

The EDC was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted as a draft by Ken Bartels.