

**Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2011
City Hall, Conference Room 2**

Present: Kurt Warnke, Chair, Mark Sabatino, Vice Chair, Bill Shanklin, Don Meyers, Maryann Gorski, Diane McGinnis, Bill Huber, Nicola Lostumbo, Rich Reichert

Absent: Steve Moskal, Dan Leahy

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

The EDC was called to order at 7:31 a.m. by Kurt Warnke, Chair.

The EDC Minutes of September 23, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Ken Bartels shared that Mayor DiCianni has forwarded his appointment of Trisha Hall, owner of the McDonald's on North York as the 12th EDC Commissioner. The City Council must approve and it is on the consent agenda for November 7, 2011. He further stated that the Mayor is considering whether the EDC ought grow to 15 members given the potential three new TIFs. No action is expected on this in the short term.

Jim Grabowski and Mike Kopp provided status updates on the progress of the three new TIFs at North York, York & Vallette and Riverside Drive. Inducement ordinances, eligibility studies and other resolutions have been approved by the City Council to date. It likely will be four to six months before City Council action and possible approvals. A possible new concept for the Hahn Street project has been introduced by the developer and the City Council is reviewing it. The Addison LLC project will need action in the first half of 2012. New redevelopment of the former Elmhurst Ford site continues to progress. Two City Centre businesses have closed recently, but four have or will open reflecting the current, fluid, nature of retail in Elmhurst.

Mike indicated that he wishes the EDC to set aside some agenda time to revisit progress on the Strategic Plan for a future report to the City Council. He also wants the EDC to conduct a SWOT exercise on economic development in Elmhurst. The Strategic Plan review will be on the November agenda. The Plan will be re-sent to the EDC by Mike prior to the meeting.

Don Meyers reported on a review of business signage issues by Steve Moskal, Than Werner, Ken Bartels and himself. Two recommendations were made: One, that the City consider using its existing wayfaring signs at the ends of both Industrial Drive and Church Road as assistance to those two business parks. Two, that the signage ordinance be altered pertaining to sandwich board signs, allowing them within prescribed standards with an annual fee. Both recommendations were agreed upon by the EDC. The first will be directed to the City Manager, the second to the DPZ Committee via Than Werner.

There was discussion on the need for a complete, city-wide, listing of all Elmhurst businesses. This was related to the Explore Elmhurst web site but also to informational needs of the EDC and others for a better list. The discussion included mention of a ComEd available list, the business license list, Chamber directory, UPS, and others. A meeting between Mike, Ken, Cathy Maloney and John Quigley will be set on this matter.

There were 11 retention visits reported upon at the meeting. Kurt suggested that Commissioners focus their retention visits for the next three months on the new TIF areas as much as possible so as to secure any prudent feedback as the City Council review is taking place.

In Open Forum, Diane McGinnis offered details on the possible merger of Elmhurst Memorial Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. It likely will be processed over the next 90-120 days. John Quigley updated the EDC on the "Got It" – Shop Elmhurst First campaign and new USPS programs as well.

It was decided that the next two EDC meetings will be held on earlier Fridays due to the holidays. The EDC will meet at 7:30 a.m. on November 18 and December 16, 2011 and then return to normal dates in 2012. A 2012 date listing will be shared at the November meeting.

The EDC adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Submitted by Ken Bartels.