



CITY OF ELMHURST

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Elmhurst Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2011

City Hall, Conference Room 2

Present: Kurt Warnke, Chair, Bill Shanklin, Mark Sabatino, Vice Chair, Don Meyers, Maryann Gorski, Diane McGinnis

Absent: Bill Huber, Steve Moskal, Dan Leahy, Nicola Lostumbo, Rich Reichert

Also Present: Jim Grabowski, Mike Kopp, Bob Dunn, Than Werner, John Quigley, Tom Paravola, Ken Bartels

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

The EDC Minutes of August 26, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Ken Bartels mentioned that Commissioner Steve Moskal has been ill. A get well card was circulated in the room and Ken will drop it off at Prairie Display. There were several handouts for those present: news articles on the TIFs, new businesses in Elmhurst, signage details. The last open commissioner slot remains unfilled at this time.

Jim Grabowski updated the EDC on issues and their status regarding Commonwealth Edison in Elmhurst. ComEd's "smart bill" legislation was recently vetoed by the Governor but it likely will come up again. The City has an opportunity to make sure it includes proper support for the items that matter most to us. The City Council and staff are working on this currently. An update on Flood Task Force endeavors was also provided. The initial, full, consultant report is due in November of this year. The Addison LLC project is also progressing.

Jim also reported on the possible new TIFs in Elmhurst, an effort that the EDC spearheaded earlier this year. The DPZ Committee and City Council have reviewed and several steps have been taken: a further consulting contract for work by Kane McKenna on three possible TIFs,

North York, York & Vallette and Riverside Drive, notification resolutions to the other taxing bodies potentially effected, pre-TIF collection details. Actual approvals may take four to six months. The EDC will be kept well informed. Jim and Mayor DiCianni also presented to the District 205 School Board on the matter. Going forward, public information on TIFs, their value, how they work, what they mean will be very important to craft and promote. Ken will work with the EDC and Staff on selected ideas.

Than Werner provided an update on business signage per the EDC's previous two meetings. While actual recommendations are not yet identified, Than has created a spreadsheet matrix combining zoning districts and signage regulations. This will allow for a better review of which signage regulations might be best addressed by the EDC and Staff. The ordinance, now primarily "complaint-driven", if revised through text amendments and other means, will need to also focus on future enforcement plans for implementation success. More to come on this issue at future meetings.

Eleven retention visits were reported.

John Quigley reported on the now approved "Got It!" local shopping/buying campaign in Elmhurst. The Chamber will be rolling out the marketing plan very soon for an effort seen as functioning from October through December of this year.

The EDC's next meeting will be on October 28, 2011.

The EDC adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Submitted by Ken Bartels.