

Elmhurst Economic Development Commission
Friday, April 27, 2018 – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Bill Shanklin, Chair, Rich Reichert, Vice Chair, Pat Wagner, Maryann Gorski, Chris LaBounty, Brian Stolper, Tim Ricordati, Melissa Villanueva, Julie Coan, Bill Huber, Don Meyers, Mark Anglewicz

Absent: Diane McGinnis, Kurt Schiele, Nina Coppola Radke

Also Present: Mark Mulliner, James Grabowski, Erin Jason, John Quigley, Ken Bartels

Guests: Pam Dunley, Garrett Rosiek, Tim Engstrom

The EDC meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m.

The Minutes of the EDC meeting of March 23, 2018 were approved as submitted.

There were no public comments.

Bill Shanklin commented on the global and local economies and noted that Elmhurst is faring very well and going strong.

Ken Bartels reported on the status of commissioner appointments. Chris LaBounty has been reappointed through 2021. Kurt Schiele and David Pinkerton (new appointment) are scheduled to go to the City Council on May 7. Mark Anglewicz and Nina Coppola Radke need to provide Ellen Cyprian at City Hall with updated application forms and then their reappointments can move forward.

The EDC acknowledged this as Bill Huber's last meeting and thanked him for his service.

Erin Jason shared that the May 1, Women-in-Management event at Pinot's Palette is at over 60 attendees to hear Dr. Annette VanAken.

Pam Dunley, President & CEO of Elmhurst Memorial Hospital was the EDC's first guest of the day. Pam shared much information regarding the present state of EMH. EMH is doing extremely well in every way. Labor and delivery numbers are up, Leapfrog, a rating company, reported EMH as a 'top hospital' in the USA, and the hospital itself is deemed very safe and healthy. Elmhurst has a new facility on North York and a new Elmhurst Clinic coming out of the ground. Future items include a parking garage and east side floor additions (2) on the main EMH campus in 3-5 years. Pam also addressed the publicity regarding a \$92 million accounts receivable error which surfaced during a deep audit review. While regrettable, the error has been addressed through ongoing corrective actions and EMH is financially sound.

Garrett Rosiek and Tim Engstrom then presented on the efforts of the Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy (ELSA) at Elmhurst College in the area of educating employers about the value and processes for the successful hiring and usage of disabled individuals in their workforces. This is a College-business collaboration program that is enjoying strong productivity and strong ROI. A manual for the program has been developed so that the program can grow and expand. Disabled individuals are an available staffing pool for businesses and provide excellent workers with a positive work ethic.

Jim Grabowski cited a recent City trip to Springfield to talk with elected officials about the idea of a 10% reduction in the local distribution fund to municipalities. They were told it seemed unlikely to proceed in this legislative session. Jim also indicated that the new Elmhurst Metra Station, an \$18 million project, has secured 90% of its funding external to City dollars. He mentioned FFC would open by the end of 2018 and the OPUS development by early 2019. The new Downtown TIF was approved by the City Council recently as well. Elmhurst College and the City will host a recycling event on April 28 for the entire community.

Erin provided details on the May 2, Houseal-Lavigne public reporting on the Subarea Plans and invited EDC members to attend from 5-7 p.m. at City hall. She also indicated that the DPZ meeting of May 14 would feature discussion of mobile food vendors, arcades and shipping container uses. There are three condo projects in various stages in City Centre and action on vacant spaces at Elmhurst Crossing.

John Quigley told the EDC of a Daily Herald award that the Elmhurst Chamber recently received and an early reminder that the 100th Memorial Day Parade is coming up on May 28. Alderman Mark Mulliner mentioned that Elmhurst business, New Home Star, was cited in Crain's as the #9 place to work in metro Chicago.

Jim provided some detail on a citizen complaint to the Illinois Attorney General's Office regarding a possible violation of the Open Meetings Act by the EDC. The matter is with the City Attorney. A joint Elmhurst College & Community Commission – EDC collaboration on a future 'millennial engagement' event was also mentioned and commented on by Rich Reichert.

The next EDC meeting will be on Friday, May 25 and will be held at the Brewpoint Coffee Workshop & Roastery at 617 N. York Street with our host and owner, Melissa Villanueva.

The EDC adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Submitted by Ken Bartels.