

Elmhurst Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.

City Hall – Conference Room 2

Present: Betsy Hanisch, Dan Hiffman, Scott LaMorte, Dan Leahy, Diane McGinnis, Don Meyers, Richard Reichert, Mark Sabatino, , John Quigley (Ex-Officio Member) - President, Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce, Tom Paravola (Ex-Officio Member) - Executive Director, Elmhurst City Centre

Absent: Kurt Warnke

Staff: Thomas Borchert, Martha Corner, John Said

Chair Betsy Hanisch called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Meyers and seconded by Commissioner LaMorte to approve the minutes of the EDC January 2009 meeting. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Economic Development Commission – Activities Discussion

City Manager Thomas Borchert attended the March 2009 EDC meeting to provide EDC work program suggestions.

After reviewing some printed materials provided by staff on economic development best practices and other tools, Mr. Borchert suggested the EDC take the opportunity to develop short-term and long-term economic development objectives with the election of a new Mayor and several new aldermen. With the election of new public officials including a new Mayor, the timing is good for the EDC to re-evaluate its mission.

He noted that the Elmhurst EDC has the ability to provide significant collaborative support to the City administration, and strategically share the collective wisdom of the various EDC members.

EDC members agreed to write a letter to the Mayor-elect relative to economic development initiatives and invite the new Mayor to the May 2009 EDC meeting.

While the EDC may also provide opinions on specific economic development-related topics, there will be a need to balance opinions with other considerations (e.g. quality of life and/or timing considerations).

Following a meeting with the Mayor-elect, the EDC agreed to draft a report to the elected officials of City Council. The report will include details on short-term and long-term objectives for the EDC.

In addition to a summary report, the EDC will assist staff in determining the best uses of the very limited economic development budget (approximately \$5,000). With the elimination of the Retail Recruitment Consultant position and suspension of membership in the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau, it is more important than ever to make the most of limited funds. Possible economic development activities could include email blasts, trade shows, breakfasts and/or lunch events, and ongoing public relations such as the Economic Edge article series.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The next meeting of the EDC is scheduled for April 24, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.

Submitted by Martha Corner, AICP, Economic Development Manager