



Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, August 27, 2014
Council Chambers Room

Minutes

Commissioners Present

James Persino, Chairman
James Kucienski, Vice-Chair
Paul Levine
Nadia Seniuta
Terrence Strauch

Commissioners Absent

James Berger
Maureen Ehrenberg
Patrick McCoy
William Pabst

Staff Present

Timothy M. Clarke AICP, Community Development Director
Ryan N. Johnson, Community Development Intern

Others Present

Craig Klatzco, Village Trustee
Jackie Boland, Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce

1. Call to Order/ Quorum Declaration

Noting that a quorum of 5 members was present, the meeting was called to order at 8:11AM by Chairman Persino.

2. Minutes Approval

Chairman Persino noted one correction to the proposed minutes indicating that on page 3 the minutes should read "Devon-Lincoln TIF District" in place of "Devon Lincoln Avenue." Hearing no other corrections, Vice-Chair Kucienski made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Seniuta, to approve the meeting minutes as corrected. Motion approved by voice vote, 4-0-1 with Commissioner Strauch abstaining.

3. Election of Officers for FY 14-15

It was noted that acceptance of nominations for Officers of the Commission for FY 2014-15 was postponed to this meeting. Commissioner Levine then moved to nominate Commissioner Persino, for the position of Chairman. Nomination seconded by Commissioner Seniuta. No other nominations were made for Chairman.

Commissioner Levine then moved to nominate for Vice-Chair, Commissioner Kucienski. Nomination seconded by Commissioner Seniuta. No additional nominations for Vice Chair were made.

It was noted that a vote of these nominations would occur at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

4. Biennial Commission Report

Director Clarke introduced this topic and explained that previously, Annual Reports by the Commission to the Village Board were made but these have been replaced with biennial reports. Mr. Clarke stated that staff prepared a draft of this report for Commissioner review and specifically noted that the Commission should decide if there are any other goals that should be added.

Commissioner Strauch recommended that the Commission wait until the next meeting so that all Commissioners have more opportunity to look over the report and provide comments.

Commissioner Levine suggested one goal that could be added to the report is a shuttle service that could transport residents to various retail areas within the Village. Commissioner Levine added that this service could be subsidized by the local business community. Commissioner Strauch indicated that running such a transportation system may be difficult for a small community like Lincolnwood. Director Clarke explained that Pace does have some programs to run smaller bus routes within communities, and that this can be looked into in an exploratory manner. Discussion ensued as to the feasibility and need for such a shuttle system.

Director Clarke indicated that consideration of shuttle bus service will be added to the goals for the upcoming 2 years on the Commission's biennial report. By consensus, the biennial report is continued to the next meeting's agenda.

5. Reports

A. Development Updates

Commissioners reviewed the Development Update Report. Chairman Persino advised the Commission of a recent discussion he had with a representative of North Capital Group, and suggested that project financing and the economic incentive may require further conversations with the Village. He noted that the development community has expressed concerns regarding the financial viability of the project. Discussion ensued.

B. Prior Site Plans for 3400 Pratt Avenue

Chairman Persino noted that TIF funds are currently available that could be used to assist redevelopment of the Centerpoint as well as Dominick's site because it is located within the Northeast Industrial TIF District. Commissioners reviewed retail development site plans proposed by Tucker Development in the 1990's for the former Bell & Howell property at 3400 Pratt Avenue. One of the two drawings included a re-aligned Pratt Avenue.

At 9:05 AM Commissioner Seniuta left the meeting and the Commission's quorum was lost. Members remaining continued an informal discussion about potential development at the former Bell & Howell and Dominick's sites. Commissioners discussed whether the development of a Walmart just across Touhy Avenue in Skokie would create more opportunities for retail development of the Dominick's/Bell & Howell site. Chairman Persino asked that this item remain on the September agenda for further discussion

C. New Business Licenses

Commissioners viewed the list of new business licenses issued during the month of July.

6. Other Business

There was no other business before the Commission.


7. Public Forum

No member of the public desired to address the Commission.

8. Adjournment

The informal discussion ended at 9:25AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ryan Johnson
Community Development Intern