



Economic Development Commission

**Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Council Chambers Room**

Commissioners Present

James V. Persino, Chair
James Kucienski, Vice Chair
James Berger
Joe Spagnoli
Genelle Iocca
Paul Levine
Rivak Albazi

Commissioners Absent

Myles D. Berman
Pat McCoy

Staff Present

Timothy Wiberg, Village Manager
Steve McNellis, Community Development Director
Charles (Chuck) Meyer, Assistant to the Village Manager

Others Present

Barry Bass, Village President
Robert Merkel, Village Finance Director
Trustee Georjean Nickell

1. Call to Order/ Quorum Declaration

Noting that a quorum of seven members were present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Persino at 8:00 AM.

2. Minutes Approval

Chairman Persino asked the Commission if any edits were to be made to the July 26, 2017 meeting minutes. Hearing no corrections, Chairman Persino called for a motion for approval. There was a consensus to approve the minutes.

3. Review of Development Projects “Story Map”

Assistant to the Village Manager, Chuck Meyer, presented the Village Story Map located on the Village of Lincolnwood website which will serve as an interactive database for businesses and residents to access information regarding current developments in the Village. Vice Chair Kucienski expressed support for the Story Map but asked if there was a way to present the map in a more direct manner on the Village website. Commissioner Spagnoli agreed that residents may need a clearer path to access the Story Map. Assistant to the Village Manager Meyer illustrated that the Story Map can be accessed from both the Business tab and the Residents tab which aims to capture both user groups.

4. Discussion Regarding Broadcasting of EDC Meetings

Staff has received general inquiries from Lincolnwood residents and there was a subsequent discussion at the August 15, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting regarding broadcasting Advisory Board meetings. Staff was subsequently directed to gauge Advisory Board’s positions on the positive and negative aspects of broadcasting meetings. Assistant to the Village Manger Meyer presented the topic of broadcasting Economic Development Commission meetings to the EDC. This proposal was also posed to all other Village Commissions for their consideration.

Chairman Persino presented concerns that this would stifle fluid conversations among potential developers and the Commission but believed this topic was worth revisiting.

Commissioner Spagnoli agreed that the Village residents would benefit from having more access to EDC meetings.

Vice Chair Kucienski stated that the idea is important to consider but argued that broadcasting the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission meetings provide more benefits to the community compared to the Economic Development Commission. Currently, the ZBA and the Planning Commission are the only Commissions that broadcast live and are available on demand.

Commissioner Levine inquired about the cost to broadcast to which Assistant to the Village Manager Meyer responded with a cost of approximately \$700 annually.

Commissioner Levine supported the notion stating that it was a value-added service to the community.

Assistant to the Village Manager Meyer discussed past Commissions’ concerns such as possible apprehension from developers to divulge too much information in such a public platform. Chairman Persino agreed that the concern was valid.

Commissioner Albazi stated that since the EDC is an advisory committee the need to broadcast the contents of the meeting is not as pressing, particularly if it is viewed as an added hurdle to developers. Chairman Persino and Vice Chair Kucienski agreed with this statement.

Commissioner Levine countered that developers are aware that all meetings are open to the public and recorded through meeting minutes.

By a vote of 4-3, there was a consensus of the EDC to support public broadcasting of Economic Development Commission meetings.

5. Discussion of a Business e-Newsletter

Community Development Director, Steve McNellis, introduced the concept of a Business e-Newsletter to help provide information to businesses and residents regarding development-related issues and projects. Through a mix of text and graphics, the newsletter would aim to highlight current projects in the Village, business anniversaries, and important information that may impact commercial or residential functions such as road closures due to development construction, among other elements of business news.

The Commission agreed that the target audience should include both businesses and residents of Lincolnwood and disseminate on a bi-monthly basis with the opportunity to publish more frequently should an urgent or particularly relevant issue arise.

Chairman Persino recommended that the Village create an email database of business owners in order to reach all relevant contacts. Village Finance Director Merkel stated that this task is currently underway through business license applications, which request this information be voluntarily provided.

Commissioner Levine added that the business anniversary element of the newsletter should include the particular business's logo for aesthetic appeal and stated that the Business e-Newsletter would benefit from integrating with the current Village newsletter which also publishes bi-monthly.

Chairman Persino added that the "sender" of the e-Newsletter should appear as the "Village of Lincolnwood."

6. Reports

a. New Business Licenses

Commissioners were provided with a report of recent business license activity.

There was no discussion related to this report

b. Development Updates

Commissioners were provided with a report of recent development updates. The presentation summarized the following:

- Stefani's Restaurant at 6755 North Cicero Ave
- Former Purple Hotel Site at 4500 West Touhy Ave
- 6530 North Lincoln Ave (to house a Teacher Education Center and a Hatzalah Chicago Emergency Ambulance Service)
- Hyatt Hotel Proposal at 7250 North Cicero Ave
- Brickyard Bank at 6676 North Lincoln Ave
- 4600 West Touhy Ave

- 3701 West Touhy Ave
- 7000 North McCormick Blvd

Director McNellis noted that the July permit fees were the highest in the past 11 years which indicates positive development trends for the Village.

Chairman Perisno inquired if the Hyatt Hotel proposal had requested incentives or petitions at this time. Director McNellis reported that the developer had not at this time.

Commissioner Levine requested the status of the Starbucks plaza multi-tenant development at the former Bank of Lincolnwood drive-thru bank site and the Culvers proposal. Director McNellis stated that the Starbucks plaza site is in progress but waiting on engineering issues to be resolved on the developer's end. In regards to Culvers, Director McNellis stated that there was no update to provide as it is unsure if the development is still being pursued.

Discussions ensued about the Stefani's Restaurant development. Village Manager, Timothy Wiberg, Chairman Persino, and Vice Chair Kucienski indicated that there had been concern raised amongst residents on social media that the restaurant's development has been stalled by the village. Staff clarified for the EDC what had been clarified at a Village Board meeting this past Summer, that the Village had moved forward with all due haste and fast-tracked this project. Delays in moving forward were not on the part of the Village.

7. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

8. Public Forum

Trustee Nickell voiced her opinion against the use of broadcasting EDC meetings. The audience member stated that the Commission should consider the potential hesitation on behalf of developers if the meetings were recorded.

Trustee Nickell also voiced her support of the Business e-Newsletter, adding that it would serve as a useful tool in monitoring the Village's various developments.

Village President, Barry Bass, updated the Commission on the Food for Thought partnership with Boston-based food service, Lean Box, and encouraged the Commission's continued support.

Referring back to the Business e-Newsletter, Commissioner Albazi suggested the use of YouTube links to increase user interaction. An example included video interviews with local business owners on their business anniversary. The Commission supported this suggestion.

9. Adjournment

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.