

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, November 9, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Committee members present were Bill Carpenter, Jon Christ, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Bob Taft, Matt Weberling, and Steve Wernecke. Also present were Alderman Gerry Leganski and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Status Update – Business Visits by EDC

i. Business List (Ward 4 & Ward 5)

ii. Business Survey Suggestions

iii. Mission Statement & Incentive Overview

Staff introduced item. Committee members provided their updates and feedback obtained from visiting the businesses in Ward 4 and Ward 5. Discussion ensued about what has gone well and where things can be improved/revised, such as the survey. Members are to provide final summary of their business visits to staff so feedback can be included for the next meeting packet.

b) New Project Ideas for 2024

Similar to prior meeting discussion the Committee discussed a need to implement more initiatives supported by the City Council to retain, attract, and enhance businesses. Another item to focus on should be beautification. It was noted that the City Council will discuss beautification opportunities at its Goal Setting Session the following week.

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Update – Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion

City Planner Jordan Yanke stated there are no substantial updates on any of the key areas. The Committee was updated on current zoning/development cases.

6. Staff Updates & EDC Member Updates

Chairperson Papais gave update on Chamber of Commerce activities and events with specific reference to Casino Night.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM.

APPROVED: _____
CHAIRPERSON