

AGENDA
Economic Development Committee
Thursday, November 3, 2022
7:00 p.m. – Darien City Hall

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – September 1, 2022**
- 4. New Business**
 - a) Recap of Concept Plan Discussions**
 - b) Preparation of Annual Committee Update**
- 5. Old Business**
 - a) EDC Duties and Tasks – Develop Working Strategy (PAGE 4)**
 - i. Activities/Initiatives for 2023**
 - b) Previous Follow Up/Hanging Matters**
 - i. EDC Member Updates**
 - ii. Staff Updates**
- 6. Next Scheduled Meeting – December 1, 2022**
- 7. Adjournment**

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, September 1, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:11PM. Committee Members present were Bryan Gay, Lou Mallers, Angelo Imbrogno, and Tom Papais. Also present was Mayor Joe Marchese.

2. Public Comment

A number of homeowners residing near the Chinoy Property on Plainfield Road were present. They included Bob and Terry Whaley, June Wiinikka, Heidi Delelio, Clark Zhn and Sean Piazza. They each expressed their concern and/or disapproval for the possibility of changing the zoning of the property. The committee listened intently to each of the residents. The Chairman expressed to the resident attendees that at this stage of the public process, it is merely a concept to look at opportunities within the entire city for potential improvement. This is one of many other properties that are being reviewed and their comments and concerns will be taken into consideration for any future recommendations made to the City.

3. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2022

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Concept Plan Discussions for Development

i. Chestnut Court Shopping Center

The committee discussed the desire to continue to look at opportunities to improve the center as it is the main entrance to the city from the West at Lemont Rd. and 75th Street. Based on previous discussions, it does not appear that the current owner is motivated to improve the development. The committee discussed the possibility to seek a developer that is interested in improving the area and acquire an appraisal on the property. In conclusion, the committee would recommend taking a more proactive approach to the potential improvement of the area.

ii. Chinoy Parcel

Since we had a lengthy discussion earlier, the committee decided to suspend further discussion regarding this property.

iii. Plainfield Road/Lester Lane Parcels

The owner of the property has already reached out to the city to discuss different options.

5. Old Business

a) EDC Duties and Tasks

Decided to table this discussion until next session.

b) Previous Follow Up/Hanging Matters

The Darien Park District has moved to a new location to a building off Nantucket and previous site will be redeveloped.

6. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 6, 2022.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

APPROVED: _____
BRYAN GAY, CHAIRPERSON

**AGENDA MEMO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

In June 2022, the Economic Development Committee held a preliminary discussion on future efforts and the need to refocus around an organized framework and strategy. The framework and strategy is for City staff and EDC members to understand roles and what working tasks should be assigned month-to-month. This memo provides an overview of the Committee's Mission Statement and related objectives, in addition to recommended points for the EDC to consider at its November Meeting as part of a follow up discussion.

EDC Mission Statement

The City of Darien is dedicated to help create opportunities for economic development through desirable business growth, expansion, retention and attraction in working as partners to develop a climate conducive in maintaining the quality of life in the City of Darien. We are dedicated to creating a more vibrant and cultivated community by:

- *Serving as a conduit between the commercial economic interests in Darien, including property managers, local business managers, government agencies, and national corporate leaders.*
- *Encouraging the economic well-being, retention, and expansion of the existing commercial businesses located within Darien.*
- *Engaging community residents to participate in the process of attracting, developing and supporting business in Darien.*
- *Supporting the local Chamber of Commerce to facilitate communication and cooperation for local businesses.*
- *Responsibly assisting in developing properties within the City of Darien in an effort to both improve the aesthetics of the City and provide additional revenue.*
- *Properly reviewing City ordinances, policies, and practices to determine their impact on existing and proposed commercial businesses.*

Duties and Tasks for the EDC (For Discussion at Meeting)

Per the above Mission Statement and ordinance adopted at the time of the Committee's inception, the following are points for consideration at the November Meeting. These points are a baseline for staff and the Committee to develop a working strategy in terms of assigning roles and tasks moving forward. Note that they are not a catch-all, so the Committee can expound on them if needed.

- 1) Recommend to the City Council those actions and programs that will serve to carry out the purpose of the committee.
- 2) Provide an annual update to the City Council on the activities of the committee.
- 3) Serve as focal point for businesses to approach and discuss issues that affect them.
- 4) Participate in the Business Visitation Program and evaluate findings of program progress.
- 5) Prepare appropriate economic developmental promotional materials.
- 6) Target specific companies or industries for business attraction efforts.
- 7) Identify economic incentives that may be offered to businesses.
- 8) Perform such other duties as the Mayor and/or Alderpersons may direct.