

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, February 2, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM. Committee members present were Jonathan Christ, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Nick Pitzer, and Bob Taft. Also present was Mayor Joe Marchese and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. EDC Member Updates/New Topic Proposals

Chairperson Papais gave update on status of the Chamber of Commerce and discussions at the City Council level in January. Committee was informed that the City Council would be considering a motion at their next meeting that would result in all Darien businesses being provided a membership to the Chamber for one year.

5. New Business

a) Monthly Update – Business Liaison & Recruitment Coordinator

Committee member Mallers spoke on new role as Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator. Mallers informed the Committee of the position's tasks and duties, including business outreach, recruitment, and retention. Committee stated their support of the position and excitement over what can be accomplished moving forward.

6. Old Business

a) Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion

- i. Darien Towne Centre**
- ii. Marketplace at Darien**
- iii. Chestnut Court Shopping Center**

iv. Plainfield Road/Clarendon Hills Road

Staff indicated there would be monthly updates on the key development areas and other initiatives to develop or redevelop properties designated per the Comprehensive Plan update in 2022. Staff and the Committee briefly spoke about each area on the agenda and reiterated the need to take action, whether that is redevelopment, filling vacant spaces, or creating open space/parks.

7. Staff Updates

Quick discussion regarding current Sokol Court apartment project and new businesses open. Committee was informed that The Harmi Sushi is targeting an opening soon at Brookhaven Marketplace and that La Panza has already opened at the same center.

8. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2023.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18PM.

APPROVED: _____
CHAIRPERSON