

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, May 4, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM. Committee members present were Jonathan Christ, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Nick Pitzer, Bob Taft, and Matt Weberling. Also present was Mayor Joe Marchese, Alderperson Gerry Leganski, and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Monthly Update – Business Liaison & Recruitment Coordinator

Committee member Mallers provided monthly update on role as Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator. Specific updates included that the City's vacant commercial space inventory was updated and that an ongoing business survey is being conducted. Survey results will be presented to the Committee once enough responses are received. Additionally, an initiative for a business directory website is still in progress.

b) New Topic Ideas & Initiatives – EDC Duties/Tasks

The Committee held a lengthy discussion surrounding their identity and specified duties and tasks within the city code. Members discussed that resuming in person business visits by members and reporting to the group will help hold the Committee accountable. It was also recommended for staff to bring forth a discussion item on potential grant/incentive program ideas that may be feasible for the City to pursue. Action items include presenting a list of current businesses within the City so the Committee can discuss breakdown of business visits for members, in addition to adding an item on a future agenda pertaining to grant/incentive program opportunities.

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. It should be noted that internal efforts are ongoing to bring prospective business tenants and redevelopment to the key development areas throughout the City.

6. Staff Updates & EDC Member Updates

Chairperson Papais gave update on current and future Chamber of Commerce events and activities. Staff had no updates.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM.

APPROVED: _____

CHAIRPERSON