

**City of Darien**  
**Minutes Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairwoman Tina Beilke Other committee members present were Louis Mallers, Bryan Gay, Matt Weberling, Frank Burns, Robert Hahn, Angelo Imbrogno, and Joseph Marchese (Mayor) was also present. The meeting was held at Darien City Hall.

**2. Public Comment**

Timothy Wasz spoke regarding disapproval of golf course incentive. He inquired why July minutes didn't mention the two speakers present at the first meeting. A short discussion regarding rules about recording committee meetings took place.

**3. Approval of Minute – July 10, 2019**

The minutes of July 10, 2019 were approved pending edits to include the names of the two speakers that commented at the meeting.

**4. New Business**

**a. Alkaye Media Group (was moved from item "c" to item "a")**

Al Kohout spoke on behalf of Alkaye Media Group for some time regarding the marketing videos the company is preparing for Darien—to promote businesses and residents to Darien. Discussions regarding how many tapes to create, how long they should be, as well as important factors to consider when creating the marketing package. Al welcomed any additional input and highlights to go into videos.

**b. Incentive Formalization (Vision, Mission)**

Committee members discussed updates to the Economic Development area on City's webpage. A link to download the incentive application the committee is working on was requested as well as the importance of listing all the forms of incentives the City will consider (e.g. variances, etc.)

**c. Incentive Matrix/Template**

Committee members discussed the templates provided in packet and their goal to finalize the application. A weighted grid at the end of the application was decided would be key to ensure the process is measured and there will be a minimum grade to qualify for the incentives.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Business Statistics and Data**

The committee talked about the retail vacancies in the City and ideas on how to fill them. A discussion on a way to target the median tier of businesses bringing in sales tax to City was requested.

**b. Surveys**

The committee requested that the City put out a survey to the residents to ask what types of businesses they would like to see in the City.

**c. Darien Marketing Material**

No additional discussion was made since item 4a New Business covered this area.

**d. Business Updates**

Mayor Marchese gave an update on new businesses in Darien, construction updates on Frontage warehouse and potential expansion business opportunities. The committee discussed the status of the marijuana survey and what neighboring communities are doing.

**6. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.