

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Wednesday – January 8, 2020

1. **Call to Order** – Chairwoman Belke called the regular meeting to order at 7:07p
Angelo Inbrogno, Matthew Weberling, Nick Pitzer, Louis Mallers, Bryan Gay, Chairwoman Tina Belke, Alderwoman Mary Sullivan, Mayor Joseph Marchese
2. **Public Comment – No public comments.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2019** - Motion made by Commissioner Inbrogno, seconded by Commissioner Gay. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.
4. **New Business**
 - a. **New Business Prospects** –
 - i. **Cannabis Business Establishments** - Committee members discussed additional locations for recreational cannabis retail sales. Brookhaven is no longer being considered as a retail sales location. There have been additional requests for cannabis cultivation locations, and several retail locations. Parking will be an issue at most existing retail locations in the City.
 - ii. **Lace School Property** – Mayor Marchese discussed the possibility of City of Darien purchasing the 12 acres that Lace School and adjacent parks are currently located on. Meeting with school district officials on January 28th District Board Business Meeting. Contacted planning companies for preliminary concepts for new sustainable living development on the property.
 - iii. **Brookhaven Shopping Center** – Mayor Marchese gave an update regarding Brookhaven Center development. City Council approved the variances recommended from Planning and Zoning Commission and an incentive agreement to supply Mr. Manos up to \$150,000 after 14 days of receipt of the new building’s certificate of occupancy.
 - iv. **Chuck’s Express** – Chuck’s has expressed an interest in a smaller concept, take-out only retail location in Darien, close to Lemont Road.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **Implementation of Business Outreach Program Update**
 - i. **Outreach letter from Mayor** – Letter from Mayor on behalf of Economic Development Committee will be finalized soon. Targeted deadline for responses within three weeks. Dan Gombac supplied a list of potential business contacts from the City. Lists have been scrubbed, home based businesses removed for first round of contacts.

- ii. **Business Contacts – First round** – Priority types of businesses will be determined by EDC and Mayor’s Office for first round of contacts. Outreach to existing businesses will begin in January and will go out 50 +/- at a time.
- iii. **Business Contacts – Next Steps** – Data to be collected by EDC in an excel database after first round of contacts and interviews. Potential future incentives should be developed based on data and feedback from businesses interviewed throughout outreach.
- iv. **Promotional Videos** – Interviews are currently being conducted with City staff and elected officials. Production should be complete by end of January. Videos will be available on City’s website for business attraction efforts.

b. 2020 Census Update – DuPage County are offering very competitive wages for Census employees. City Council approves resolution to form a “Complete Count” committee within the City of Darien. Census committee will be run through EDC to streamline efforts. City will be reaching out to faith-based and community organizations to encourage residents to complete their 2020 census questionnaire.

c. Previous Follow-Up Items/Hanging Matters – Carriage Green had a very successful December and holiday season.

6. Next Scheduled Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mallers and seconded by Commissioner Inbrogno at 8:49p. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.