

Winthrop Harbor Economic Development Commission
December 10th, 2008
Meeting Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order.

Meeting called to order at 1805 by Jimmie Harris.

In Attendance:

Jimmie Harris (Chairman)

Julie Gonka (Vice Chair)

Terry Isaacs (Secretary)

Pat DiPersio (Economic Development Director)

Members: Margo Nelson, Bob Long, Carl Simmons, Gary Powell, Kurt Melander,

Not present: Harold Logaras (Member At Large), Shelley Walker, Ken Jones, Cy Race and Buddy Hargett.

Guests present were Kimberly Braden and Virginia Lopez.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 12th, 2008 meeting.

MOTION was made to approve minutes by Margo Nelson with minor changes and seconded by Carl Simmons to approve the minutes. MOTION passed.

III. Chairman's Report:

- i.** Additional topic added: Streetscape, Triangle and Marina. Jimmie opened discussion regarding these issues and that the EDC has reached a point where it cannot do much more until the village board acts upon some of the initiatives presented by the EDC and currently being considered. Jimmie indicated that based on meeting with the mayor, general support from the village board can be expected. Additional discussion regarding financial options or methods the village might be interested in taking. Jimmie solicited suggestions as to how to create more public awareness of the benefits of the current plans for the village to both the residents and the local politicians. Discussion left open.
- ii.** ZBTHS Improvement Initiatives: Jimmie reviewed a short PowerPoint handout regarding ZBTHS improvement initiatives, as presented to CTCA. Jimmie also discussed the opening of the new high school campus New Tech High School.
- iii.** New-Tech High School Business Partner Program – Pat briefly discussed the letter from ZBTHS regarding a business partnership with New Tech High School.
- iv.** Update of Comprehensive Plan – Jimmie has indicated that it is time to update the plan and will ask the village for assistance in doing so.
- v.** Economic Development Monthly Activity Report – Per the request of the village board, Pat has created a report which details the activity of the Economic Development department.

IV. Committee Reports:

1. Marina Relations.

- i. **Lakefront Development** – Pat explained that letters asking for support have gone out, and any local businesses are encouraged to send letters of support to their local or state political representatives.

2. Infrastructure.

- i. **Metra Parking Fees** – Carl Simmons and Kurt Melander presented a feasibility study regarding pay-to-park options for the Metra Station, pending Metra expansion. Discussion followed on the options presented. MOTION made by Bob Long to present to the board, SECOND by Julie Gonka. MOTION passed.

3. Marketing.

- i. **Triangle Update** - This topic was covered during the discussion of the Streetscape, Triangle and Marina topic in the chairman's report.
- ii. **Shovel ready sites resource manual** – Pat briefly discussed the process that is needed to become a shovel ready site, as well as presenting the manual as prepared for the shovel ready initiative. Discussion followed. Pat will recap the program and present copies to the village board and planning department.
- iii. **Development plans marketing campaign** – This topic was covered during the discussion of the Streetscape, Triangle and Marina topic in the chairman's report.
- iv. **Website Updates** – Pat indicated that he is working with Mike Bitton on revising the website. This topic was also covered during the discussion of the Streetscape, Triangle and Marina topic in the chairman's report.
- v. **EDC Website updated** - This topic was covered during the discussion of the Streetscape, Triangle and Marina topic in the chairman's report.
- vi. **2009 Summer Concert series** – Pat has received a quote for the next season of the summer concert series. Margo expressed some reservations regarding vendor and talent obligations in terms of performance times and limits. After reviewing the quote and some discussion, Pat asked for volunteers for a committee to help develop the plans for the 2009 Summer Concert series. Committee volunteers are Terry Isaacs, Margo Nelson, Kurt Melander and Gary Powell.

4. Financial.

- i. Streetscape Financing Alternatives** – This topic was covered during the discussion of the Streetscape, Triangle and Marina topic in the chairman’s report. Pat discussed the recap of the landscaping portion of the Streetscape plan as provided by Kurt.

5. Legal. Nothing to report at this time.

6. Political Liaison. Nothing to report at this time.

V. Notices/Handouts:

Next EDC Meeting scheduled for 14 January 2008.
Advance Copy – Village newsletter article.

VI. Adjournment.

MOTION made by Margo Nelson and seconded by Bob Long to adjourn.
MOTION passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1955.

Submitted by Terry Isaacs, Secretary, Economic Development Committee.