

Winthrop Harbor Economic Development Commission
December 9, 2009
Meeting Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order.

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Chairperson Margo Nelson.

In Attendance:

Pat DiPersio, Economic Development Director

Members: Margo Nelson, Buddy Hargett, Carl Simmons, Gary Powell, Ken Jones, Kurt Melander, Cy Race, and Julie Gonka

Not present (excused): Terry Isaacs, Bob Long, Shelley Walker

Guests present: Trustee Kimberly Braden.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2009 meeting

Meeting minutes were not available.

III. Chairperson Report: Margo Nelson

- i. Chairperson Nelson introduced the idea of the EDC re-thinking the approach to planning for development using the “Necessity of Change” template provided. Discussion surrounded how to describe the need for economic development including declining village revenues and a desire for additional stores to service the needs of the residents. Buddy offered to spearhead the project, at least to get it started. Kurt agreed to help with analyzing village finances.

IV. Committee Reports:

1. Development Planning:

i. Development Strategies for Key Parcels Report

Pat led a discussion on where to place priorities based on satisfying the Necessity of Change. The group offered input and a consensus was reached that the greatest financial impact could be achieved by developing 9th and Lewis.

2. Marketing/Special Events:

i. Summer Concert Series

Gary gave an update on the proposed TV raffle to be conducted by the Chamber of Commerce to raise money to help fund the 2010 concerts. He was hoping to get the TV donated, but if not one would be purchased. It remains the objective to raffle the TV off before the Super Bowl.

4. Director Report:

i. Beach Clean Up

Pat reported that he was contacted by Senator Bond's aide who was inquiring about the beach. They wanted to know if the beach was a part of Illinois Beach Resort because Illinois Beach Resort had funding in an upcoming budget for beach clean-up. Pat explained to the aide that north beach was a part of the marina complex, not Illinois Beach Resort. He was encouraged that someone was at least making some inquiries on our behalf.

5. Unfinished Business:

- i. Pat acknowledged the great job done at the annual tree lighting ceremony. He thanked Kurt, Carl and Trustee Braden for their efforts in getting things prepared. Kurt acknowledged the cooperation provided by John Hogan and Scott Fuller, without which the event could not have been successful.
- ii. Cy talked about state legislation being considered that is intended to create redistricting that would hopefully give Winthrop Harbor better representation. He asked that the EDC consider supporting the legislation.
- iii. Cy shared the 11-19-09 ZB News article by Beach Park Mayor, Milt Jenson. Mayor Jenson outlines the opportunity in developing the lakefront in the piece.
- iv. Cy initiated discussion on the use of TIF funds to encourage development. He wondered why Zion and Beach Park can seemingly do so much and we can not. Pat explained that our TIF had not yet produced funds that could be used for this purpose.
- v. Trustee Braden wished everyone happy holidays and thanked them for all they do. Several EDC members reciprocated by thanking Trustee Braden for her support.

V. Notices/Handouts:

- i. January 13, 2010 Next EDC Meeting

VI. Adjournment.

Motion made by Julie and seconded by Carl to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Submitted by Pat DiPersio, Acting Secretary, Economic Development Commission.