

Winthrop Harbor Economic Development Commission
April 8th, 2009
Meeting Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order.

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Julie Gonka.

In Attendance:

Julie Gonka (Vice Chair)

Terry Isaacs (Secretary)

Pat DiPersio (Economic Development Director)

Members: Bob Long, Carl Simmons, Gary Powell, Ken Jones, Kurt Melander, Margo Nelson, Shelley Walker Cy Race and Buddy Hargett.

Not present: Harold Logaras

Guests present: Terry Race.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 11th, 2009 meeting.

MOTION was made to approve minutes by Ken Jones and seconded by Kurt Melander to approve the minutes. MOTION passed.

III. Vice Chairman's Report:

- i. Remembrance and Procedure-** Julie discussed methods of remembering Jimmie Harris and his contributions to the village. Discussion about the naming the bird sanctuary after him. Bob suggested a resolution by the village board to rename the sanctuary. More details to follow. Much discussion ensued about options, with the suggestion to get the price for a sign to place in the sanctuary.
- ii. Election Results – Matching EDC Goals to new VB wishes –** Julie / Pat discussed procedures for reappointment of EDC board members, and much discussion about meeting with the new village board members to discuss new ideas. Pat will send meeting requests to the board.
- iii. What can the EDC do to be more effective –** Much more will be determined after meeting with the village board. Discussion turned to having board members submit agenda items rather than Pat determining agenda items. Julie indicated that perhaps a list of questions for discussion should be developed for that meeting with the board.

IV. Committee Reports:

1. Marina Relations.

- i. **How can we get involved in Marina Days** – Buddy discussed methods of getting involved. With the news that the chamber has withdrawn from the event, more ideas and effort is needed. It was noted that this is the 20th anniversary of the marina.
- ii. **Village events at the lakefront** - Items discussed in conjunction to the above topic. Much discussion ensued.
- iii. **Stimulus money to improve the south beach** – Pat indicated that it might be possible to get funds to improve the appearance and maintain the beaches, as well as prevent erosion. Pat indicated that it was in the village’s best interest to maintain the beach.
- iv. **NorthPoint Resources use at the lakefront** – Buddy indicates that they are interested in helping to maintain the lakefront, and has asked how they can help.
- v. **Next steps: DNR response to EDC development proposal** – Buddy and Pat opened discussion regarding the use of DNR land. Pat obtained a master plan of land use for the marina, with the original intent and timelines for development. This opens up a bit more land to use in development planning, about 20 acres or so. Much discussion about marketing this development then followed.

2. Infrastructure.

- vi. **Hot properties** – Buddy wanted to discuss the topic to identify areas that the EDC can focus on and present as ready for development. This topic dovetails with the shovel ready topic and development plans for the marina. Much discussion on topic. Topic left open.
- vii. **Metra station parking lot** – Pat indicated that he anticipates that Metra will be breaking ground in the May/June timeframe. Pat also mentioned that a maintenance plan developed by Carl and Kurt was included in his budget request for the EDC.
- i. **Funding for summer flowers** – Questions regarding funding of summer flowers were posed. Appears to be in limbo, per Kurt. Kurt provide a brief history of the funding, which was provided by the hospital with Jimmie’s support. It would appear that a new source of funding is needed to continue the summer flower program. Pat will attempt to fund it through the EDC budget.

3. Marketing.

- i. Nothing at this time –**

4. Financial

- i. Shovel ready grants** – Margo and Pat discussed the pros and cons of engaging the use of a Grant Service firm to assist in grant writing, as a method to provide additional funding for EDC / village projects.

5. Political Liaison

- i. Nothing at this time. –**

V. Notices/Handouts:

Next EDC Meeting scheduled for 13 May 2009.

VI. Adjournment.

MOTION made by Margo Nelson and seconded by Bob Long to adjourn.
MOTION passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1950.

Submitted by Terry Isaacs, Secretary, Economic Development Committee.