

Winthrop Harbor Economic Development Commission
May 13th, 2009
Meeting Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Margo Nelson.

In Attendance:

Margo Nelson (Chairman)

Pat DiPersio (Economic Development Director)

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

Absent: Bob Long, Member-at-Large

Excused: Julie Gonka, Terry Isaacs, Member-at-Large

Guests present: Trustee Kimberly Braden, Terry Race.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2009 meeting

MOTION was made to approve the minutes as presented by Cy Race and seconded by Gary Powell. MOTION passed unanimously.

III. Chairperson Report: Margo Nelson

i. Elect EDC Secretary – Margo asked if there was anyone who would like to volunteer for this position. Shelley Walker volunteered.

MOTION was made by Kurt Melander and seconded by Gary Powell to elect Shelley Walker as EDC Secretary for the term May 13, 2009 to April 30, 2010. MOTION passed.

Trustee Kimberly Braden Introduction & Comments – Chairman Margo Nelson introduced Trustee Kimberly Braden. Margo mentioned according to our bi-laws Trustee Braden also oversees Planning, Building and Zoning. Trustee Braden stated she was looking forward to working with the EDC.

ii. Elect EDC Vice Chairperson – Nominations were Buddy, Carl, and Julie. Pat took a papervote from all EDC members and Buddy received the majority of votes.

MOTION was made by Kurt Melander and seconded by Shelley Walker to elect Buddy Hargett as EDC Vice-Chairperson for the term May 13, 2009 to April 30, 2010. MOTION passed.

iv. EDC Purpose and Objective – Review By-Laws – Margo talked about the bi-laws and wanted to make sure each EDC member understood. She asked each EDC members to call Pat if they are not able to attend a meeting. Lengthy conversation took place about whether or not members-at-large should be following these bi-laws as well. Kurt will draft the necessary amendments and bring to the June EDC meeting for review and approval.

Once approved by the EDC, these changes will also need to be approved by the Village Board.

v. Establish 2009 Goals Focused on Development of Key Sites

Margo discussed key goals for the committee to work on. She presented a copy of Grayslake's EDC goals and would like to implement this format for our own goals. Topics were discussed in depth as to which properties we need to focus on. Committees were formed from this discussion.

Properties

vi. Committees Formed Based on Goals:

- NEC Sheridan Rd & 7th St - Nelson/Powell/Gonka
- NEC 9th St and Lewis Ave - Hargett/Walker
- North Point Marina Hotel Parcel- Hargett/Race
- North Point Marina Restaurant Parcel- Hargett/Race
- SEC Sheridan & Russell - Melander/Walker
- 1142 Sheridan Road - Nelson/Gonka
- 7th Street South (Bluff Property) - Hargett/Race
- NWC 9th & Kenosha - Melander

Trustee Braden will present the EDC goals to the Village Board for approval.

MOTION was made by Carl Simmons and seconded by BuddyHargett to approve the EDC 2009 goals and to present these goals to the Village Board for approval/concensus.

IV. Committee Reports:

1. Lakefront:

- i. Lakefront activities** – Buddy reported on the May 9th meeting with Dave Suthard. The meeting went well and Dave is open to any ideas/events to market the lakefront. Buddy's question was where these events fall relative to EDC goals? Buddy had several great suggestions for events at the lakefront and more discussions regarding these events will continue to take place. Margo suggested making a presentation to the Recreation Board to see if the Board could get involved with these events. Buddy will put together materials to present to the Trustee over Parks & Recreation.

- ii. **National Marina Day** – August 8 – Pat reported that he had been a part of some preliminary discussions about this year’s event. Event details are yet to be confirmed.
- iii. **North Beach Closures** – Cy commented about the closings and how it’s hurting our community. Cy looked into a way to get rid of the seagulls and this included s a high pitch sound that humans can not hear but repels seagulls. It was agreed a letter will be sent to the garbage dump to talk about the seagull issues, as well as the State requesting help to clean up our beach.

2. Infrastructure:

- i. **Recommendation to Rename Bird Sanctuary, donations to cover cost of new signage**EDC Members agreed to cover the cost of the new signage for the renaming of the Bird Sanctuary.
- ii. **Pedestrian Bridge** – Kurt asked when the brackets would be installed to display signs on the bridge. This lead into a discussion about community sign boards and marketing events for the community. Pat reported that some form of brackets will be used to install the Welcome to Winthrop Harbor banners before Memorial Day.
- iii. **Flower Pots** – Cy asked about future funding for flower pots. Pat reported that the Village Board approved a new budget line item for downtown beautification which will be funded by Metra parking fees. The flower pots will be funded from this line item in the future.

3. Marketing:

- i. **Summer Concerts – Revenue for future years; EDC run concessions stand, volunteers, sponsorship**
Margo discussed the possibility for future funding and how we may/may not have funds for future concerts. Therefore we should look at donations/sponsorships/fundraising now. If the EDC runs the concession stand as a fundraiser then each member will need to commit to volunteer to help out with at least one concert. The order of preference for providing concessions will be 1) local businesses, 2) Chamber of Commerce and 3) the EDC. There was some discussion regarding the EDC giving out free popcorn and lemonade.

Pat also said the Fun Fair will be held June 4.

4. ED Director Report:

- i. Through Cy a contractor contacted Pat in regards to the Bluff property about putting retail development and storage there.
- ii. Pat said the most successful municipalities in Economic Development have their elected officials at the table as often as possible, therefore Trustee Braden will help Pat/EDC.

- iii. A second application for the Streetscape funding was made through Congressman Bean's office. These funds, if approved, could be used as the village's matching funds for ITEP, meaning the possibility of obtaining 100% funding for the project.

5. Unfinished Business:

- i. Pat said the best way to get outside elected officials to respond is to meet face to face.
- ii. Pat and Carl met with Dave Suthard to discuss options for starting the parade at the Marina. The consensus is it's not logistically possible due to traffic/safety concerns.
- iii. Pat reported that Harold Logaras will not be renewing his membership with the EDC. The EDC will be preparing a letter of recognition for his tenure.
- iv. Trustee Braden commented on how happy she is to be in this position with the EDC and is more than willing to support us in any way she can.

V. Notices/Handouts:

Next EDC Meeting June 10, 2009
2009 EDC Roster

VI. Adjournment.

Motion made by Shelley Walker and seconded by Kurt Melander to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:43.

Submitted by Shelley Walker Secretary, Economic Development Commission.