

Winthrop Harbor Economic Development Commission  
July 14, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call Meeting to Order  
The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Margo Nelson.

Attendees

Pat DiPersio (EDC Director)  
John Mazurek  
Kurt Melander  
Margo Nelson (Chairman)  
Cy Race  
Carl Simmons  
Sandy Trusky

Ex-Officio

Bob Long - excused

Others

Terry Race  
Jennifer Levin  
Kim Braden

Excused

Buddy Hargett  
Gary Powell

Chairman Nelson informed the Commission that Member Powell was called out of town due to the death of his brother. A card was distributed for signature to send to Gary.

Chairman Nelson informed the Commission that Member Hargett was working out of the Aurora office and would try to make part of the meeting tonight but it would depend on when he was able to leave the office and how heavy traffic was.

- II. Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2010  
Motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2010 Economic Development Commission was made by Kurt Melander and Seconded by Cy Race. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. Chairperson Report: Margo Nelson

i. Welcome New Members

- Chairman Nelson welcomed new members John Mazurek and Sandy Trusky to the Commission. She again stated that the Commission needs a secretary to take the minutes and asked for a volunteer. Member Trusky stated that she would like to get a better understanding of the Commission prior to becoming the secretary. She requested to attend a few meetings prior to starting the position.

- IV. Committee Reports:

1. Development Planning:

- i. The Necessity for Change – Waiting for COW meeting with Village Board to be Set

- Chairman Nelson informed the Commission that Mayor Loy has been provided with a copy of The Necessity for Change. Mayor Loy was very enthusiastic about the document. Pat DiPersio stated that the Mayor set a date for EDC and the Board to meet at the next EDC meeting on August 11, 2010 to discuss the document.
- The Mayor was also very concerned about the beach needing to be cleaned up.

## 2. Marketing/Special Events:

### i. 2010 Summer Concert Series – Need Volunteers for July 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Concerts

- Chairman Nelson reminded the Commission that Pat DiPersio will be unavailable for the concerts on July 17<sup>th</sup> and July 24. She stated that she will handle the July 17<sup>th</sup> concert but needed a few more volunteers. Member Mazurek and Member Melander volunteered to help at this concert.
- Chairman Nelson stated she will not be able to attend the July 24<sup>th</sup> concert and asked for volunteers. Member Melander and Jennifer Levin volunteered to handle this concert.
- Pat DiPersio reminded the Commission that there will be a car show at the July 17<sup>th</sup> concert starting at 5:00 p.m.
- Pat DiPersio informed the Commission that approximately 100 people attended the first concert with music provided by Bob Filler Orchestra.
- Pat DiPersio informed the Commission that a 50/50 raffle was held at the July 10<sup>th</sup> concert with \$131 worth of tickets being sold. The concert committee has an additional \$65.50 to work with for next year's concerts.

## 3. Director Report:

### i. Streetscape Update – Light Bases and Strike

- Pat DiPersio informed the Commission that the project is currently stalled due to the construction strike. However, the project still should be able to be completed on schedule if the strike ends soon.
- The Village was informed that IDOT rejected the light bases to be installed. One of the issues was the breakaway arm that would hold the banner. The aluminum light base does not come with wiring for the light and the steel light pole needs a different base. Pat DiPersio met with the contractor and the engineering firm to resolve these issues and find out why they were not addressed prior to submitting the project. Pat sent a letter to IDOT addressing all the questions regarding the items that were rejected by IDOT.
- The contractor has been directed to fill in the open areas with gravel and remove the barricades and tape in front of the businesses on 7<sup>th</sup> Street until the project is ready to be completed.
- The plants for this area have been sitting ready for planting for several weeks which is a concern since it has been extremely hot out. The plants should have warranties if there is a problem.
- The roadway on 7<sup>th</sup> Street between the ESDA building and the railroad tracks floods with a heavy rain since the rickrack was placed there to protect the area.

- ii. Harbor Days – Skipper Buds to Take the Lead (August 6, 7, & 8)
  - Pat DiPersio explained that the Marina and EDC are trying to expand the Venetian Festival.
  - Skipper Buds has moved their annual boat show down to the lake front during this time frame.
  - Harbor Days will now be headed up by a committee of Skipper Buds employees, including Betsy and Sarah. Sarah was the intern at North Point Marina last year and organized the vendors at last year’s show. She has been hired by Skipper Buds and will be key to organizing the event again this year.
  - Pat DiPersio informed the Commission that he offered Skipper Buds the opportunity to display some of the boats around town that weekend. He does not know if they will have enough boats to have any around town.
  - Members were requested to make a list of ideas for vendors/activities that could take place at the same time as Venetian Festival and bring them to the next meeting.
  - Member Melander stated that his wife is an event planner and she organized an art show for a different group. He is going to provide the information to the EDC to see if it will be beneficial to have an art show with the festival next year.
  - Member Trusky stated that her husband is in a band and they might be willing to provide music for a street dance at no cost.

4. Unfinished Business:

- Member Race highlighted the letter received from Bob Filler of Bob Filler Orchestra (the band that played on July 10<sup>th</sup>) thanking Terry and Cy for thinking of them for the concert.
- Member Race highlighted an article in the Zion-Benton News dated July 1, 2010 regarding the Illinois Beach State park – “Illinois Beach State Park has no funds for rescue – Drowning at state park”. He inquired if there was any way to persuade the state legislature to take an interest in the lake front the state owns in Winthrop Harbor, Zion and Beach Park. The remainder of Lake Michigan is owned by several municipalities who take care of their portion of the lake front. Pat DiPersio informed the Commission that he is in talks with a consulting firm that has interest in representing the village in the possible purchase or lease of the lake front from the State.

5. New Business

- i. None

V. Notice/Handouts

- i. August 11, 2010 Next EDC Meeting

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Race and seconded by Member Melander to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.