

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

November 20, 2019

The meeting of the Economic Development Commission was called to order at 5:33 p.m. on November 20, 2019 by Commissioner Nat Rosasco.

**PRESENT:** Larry Calvert, Tony Oddo, Nat Rosasco and Patrick Grobe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Economic Development Director Patrick Burke, Trustee Nick Cuzzone, Trustee Wagner, Trustee Kevin Patrick and Trustee Christine Murphy.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes for the Economic Development Commission for October 23, 2019 were approved. Motion to accept the minutes made by Commissioner Tony Oddo and seconded by Commissioner Patrick Grobe and passed with all ayes.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Discussion began with the "Yes Villa Park" web-site and the final design for the window decals. A few changes were made to the draft and it was agreed to go with a smaller version anywhere from 4x4 to 6x6. Nat Rosasco to make the changes and forward on to Economic Development to obtain some quotes. Also once the decal is complete they will need to be distributed to businesses. Other location can include, the Library, ICC and the kiosks on the Paths.

Next item on the agenda was Business Forums. Trustee Patrick led the discussion. He would like to see business corridors meetings next year, as a way to improve communication. The village needs be involved to answer questions, give direction and update business owners on what has happened or will be happening within the village. Group activities and discussion on future goals (What, Where and Why things are accomplished or not) and ways to improve communication. A set agenda format is the best way with a mediator. It was agreed that approximately 4 different corridor meetings should be set up, lasting no longer than 2 hours and reach out to the business owners on their needs and concerns.

The commission agreed to start pre-planning prior to the next commission meeting of having a meeting for the Villa and Ardmore Avenue businesses. The group will consist of Nat Rosasco, Tony Oddo, Dave Casey and Kevin Patrick. The consensus was these meetings would be helpful to open the doors of communications.

Village Updates from Director Burke. Bulldogs on Roosevelt Road recently had a soft opening. The Marrakresh Express Café at the Metra Train Station is now opened. They have fresh baked goods and are looking into catering also. Alrayes on St. Charles Road also opened and they serve a carry out menu of Mediterranean food. Ross Dress for Less has approval to move forward with the construction. Mijo's Taco's and I Love Frys are not completed yet. Finally the Standard Meadery on Park Blvd is beginning construction and production of honey wine and plan on opening in the spring.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Trustee Murphy mentioned there is a lot of talk about the recreational cannabis and how the taxes could be used. She also was interested in the commission discussing incentives to have these outlets close to the borders of the village.

Trustee Wagner proudly announce he has approval for sub-committee regarding the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. They will be meeting on Thursday night and will be looking to recommend to the Village Board additional improvements/ideas.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Commissioner Larry Calvert and seconded by Commissioner, Patrick Grobe. The motion passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Pat Boksha