

**City Of Rolling Meadows
Economic Development Committee Minutes
Monday, April 3, 2023**

Members Present:

Linda Ballantine
Christine Burbidge
Craig Carlson
Heather Larson
Jeanine Molinelli
Kevin O'Brien

Members Absent:

Jenifer Vinezeano

Also Present:

Martha Corner, Business Development Manager

Call to Order

EDC Chair Jeanine Molinelli established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Member Burbidge and seconded by Member Heather Larson to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 Economic Development Committee (EDC) regular meeting. With no additional discussion the EDC minutes were unanimously approved by the membership.

Overview – 2023 Rolling Meadows Business Development Strategic Plan

Martha Corner provided an overview of the upcoming effort to create a Rolling Meadows Business Development Strategic Plan. She indicated the City is in the process of creating a Strategic Business Development Plan ("Plan") to ensure the continued growth and vitality of the Rolling Meadows community (Strategic Plan Process Review & Suggested Plan Topics attached).

Upon its expected completion in late 2023, the Plan will detail an ambitious set of strategies and actions to support the local economy. The purpose of the Plan effort is to develop a set of measurable strategies and actions to support the local economy. With a Plan horizon of approximately three (3) years, the Plan will be a dynamic document subject to nearer term change as business conditions change.

The business climate throughout the Chicago metropolitan area is evolving with the rise of e-commerce and shifting consumer habits, both of which were exacerbated by the pandemic. The Plan will include a robust evaluation of the impacts of these paradigm changes, with the ultimate goal of setting forth a work plan to ensure continued business vitality and growth in the community matched with exceptional consumer experiences for the public.

Purposely grand in scope, the effort will involve a series of focus group discussions among City staff members, elected leaders, EDC members, local business and real estate representatives and other key constituencies. The City will undertake extensive research of best practices in business development, conduct and analysis of existing conditions, and complete a full review of Rolling Meadows' current business development policies, activities and programs.

Ultimately, the Plan will be carried out by City staff with guidance from the City Council and EDC, property and business owners and other community partners.

After some discussion the EDC indicated support for the Plan effort. Martha Corner reported that on May 16, 2023 the City Council Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) will discuss the proposed Plan effort.

Events Discussion

The EDC reviewed in general concept some ideas for special events to attract consumers from within and around Rolling Meadows to Rolling Meadows businesses and weighed the pros and cons of various event concepts:

- Mardi Gras Festival;
- Pierogi Fest;
- Urban Charity Shopping Cart Race;
- Bike Race;
- Pizza Fest;
- Kite Fest;
- Animal Fest;
- Art Fair;
- Public Art & Lighting Installations;
- Summer Festival;
- Beer Tasting and Food Festival.

The EDC agreed to defer an agenda item “Event Planning Criteria” to the next EDC meeting.

New Business List – Feedback Received from Contacts Made & Distribution of New List(s)

No EDC members at information to report on new business contacts made. Martha Corner summarized the list of February 2023 new businesses and indicated she would follow up with the businesses.

Staff Reports – Business Advocate Update

Ms. Corner reported the following:

- Kong Dog (1649 Algonquin Road – former Bigby’s) is now open. For more information on the restaurant, visit <https://kongdog.us>.
- The 2023 Taking Care of Business Luncheon (State of the City) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 11 am to 1 pm at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center (1701 W. Algonquin Road). For more information visit <https://rollingmeadowschamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/taking-care-of-business-state-of-the-city-4323>.
- The former Gus’ Diner location (2160 Plum Grove Road – Plum Grove Road Shopping Center) has been leased. The new restaurant owners of “Café on Grove” have applied for a liquor license. Permits in process, projected opening date to be determined.

- The former Grande Jake's location (5500 New Wilke Road) is being taken over by new restaurant operators for a fine Italian dining establishment. The new restaurant owners of "Case de Luigi" have applied for a liquor license. Permits in process, projected opening to be determined.
- The closed Jimmy John's restaurant at 1317 Golf Road is reopening under new ownership, reopening date to be determined pending new business licensing and other necessary approvals.
- Fratello's 2 restaurant (3301 Kirchoff Road) recently closed due to a fire. The business owner has plans to remediate and clean the damage, reconstruct certain elements of the building and reopen. Reopening date to be determined.

Items of Interest in the City

None.

Issues Not on the Agenda

None.

Public Comment


None.

Adjournment

Chair Molinelli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Member Larson and seconded by Member Ballantine, and unanimously approved by the membership. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Committee will take place on June 5, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Corner

Minutes approved on: 6/5/23



Jeanine Molinelli, Chair, Economic Development Committee