

**City Of Rolling Meadows
Economic Development Committee Minutes
Monday, July 11, 2022**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Roberta Marcinkus
Jenifer Vinezeano

Also Present:

Martha Corner, Business Advocate
JoEllen Charlton, Assistant Director of Public Works

Call to Order

Having established a quorum, Acting Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2022 Meeting

Chairman O'Brien requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 regular meeting. A motion was made by Member Molinelli and seconded by Member Ballantine, and with no additional discussion the Economic Development Committee (EDC) minutes were unanimously approved by the membership.

Retail and Restaurant Incentives – Review

The EDC reviewed a few possible modifications to the current Retail and Restaurant Incentives Program, which will be brought to a future COW meeting for review:

- 1) Carry-out restaurants would be eligible and the maximum number of businesses under the same name in Illinois would be no more than ten (10) locations to be eligible;
- 2) "Retail" shall be defined as a prospective new business with gross projected annual revenues of no less than 60% from retail sales;
- 3) The Incentive Program stipulations are guidelines only and may be subject to exceptions if warranted

Outdoor Seating and Landscaping Proposed Grant Program – Review

The EDC continued to discuss a possible Outdoor Seating and Landscaping Proposed Grant Program. The EDC provided guidance to Staff to possibly select a current business location (e.g. Rolling Meadows Shopping Center) and provide a visual rendering (low cost) of what an enhanced outdoor seating area would look like. Based on this rendering, Staff would review the concept with City Council at a future Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) for their recommendations and possible support.

2022 Goals Discussion Continued

Chairman Burbidge stated that the EDC could continue “brainstorming” on a 2022 EDC Goals program during the meeting. Ms. Corner has provided a white board for keeping notes.

2022 EDC PROPOSED GOALS

- 1) Assist Existing Businesses
 - a) Restaurant Promotions
 - b) Property Improvements
 - c) Small Business Forum, Mentoring, Business Resource Guide
 - d)
- 2) Attract New Businesses
 - a) Restaurants
 - b) Shopping
 - c) Gathering Places
- 3) Aesthetics
 - a) Landscaping
 - b) Curb Appeal
 - c) Bicycle Features

New Business List – Feedback Received from Contacts Made and Distribution of New List

EDC members reported on various business contacts made, all comments about opening their businesses in Rolling Meadows were favorable. EDC members then reviewed the June 2022 new business list and various members agreed to contact the businesses as follows:

- Lulu’s Café – Heather Larson
- Cardinal Color Group – Christine Burbidge
- Nearchi Inc. – Martha Corner
- Prime Roofing – Christine Burbidge

Staff Reports – Business Advocate Update

Ms. Corner reported the following:

- A new Rolling Meadows company will be locating to the remodeled industrial facility at 5300 Newport Drive, previously approved by the City for a Cook County Class 6b Industrial Property Tax Incentive. The company is PRO-EM and is a provider of event services for a wide variety of groups. For more information visit <https://proem.org/>
- Chicago Ramen Lab, a popular ramen noodle restaurant operator with a current location in Des Plaines (visit <https://www.facebook.com/chicagoramentky>), has executed a lease for an additional Rolling Meadows location and will be taking over the abandoned restaurant location at 2222 Algonquin Road (formerly Pizza & More). This will be a take-out only restaurant location, therefore not eligible for a Restaurant Incentive Grant.

- Rolling Meadows law firm Bott & Associates has moved to a much larger space at 3701 Algonquin Road, Suite 712, and will be holding a ribbon cutting event. The City will work with Bott & Associates representative on event planning.
- Lulu's Café (2633 Kirchoff Road) is now open.
- Shelby's Cafe (2164 Plum Grove Road) is nearing completion of build out and an opening is expected during the coming weeks.
- New Rolling Meadows business Auctus Solutions (3879 Industrial Avenue), a supply chain solutions firm, has applied for the Next Level Northwest (NLNW) professional business coaching program. Rolling Meadows NLNW Pitch Panel presentation to take place in the coming weeks.
- ATS Life Sciences (5655 Meadowbrook Drive) will hold a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting event on July 7, 2022 to celebrate completion of a building expansion.
- Kong Dog, a very popular Korean corn dog restaurant operator, has executed a lease for the former Bigby's location (1649 West Algonquin Road). Awaiting permit submittals, opening date to be determined (visit <https://kongdog.us/>).
- Owner of a new restaurant concept involving gourmet grilled cheese and burgers is continuing to move forward with details on a lease for the former Asian Tokyo location (1655 West Algonquin Road).
- Owner of Meadows Dog House (2639 Kirchoff Road) has applied for a special use for a doggie day care business and a public hearing by the Planning & Zoning Commission is scheduled for August 2, 2022.

Items of Interest in the City

None.

Issues Not on the Agenda

The EDC discussed the need for a new Chair as Nick Martinelli has resigned from the EDC. Martha Corner suggested the EDC members think about this item and she will place it on the August 1, 2022 EDC agenda. EDC members agreed with the suggestion.

Based on some recent difficulty having a quorum for a regular EDC meeting, the EDC reviewed its composition. Members agreed that having a EDC membership of nine (9) individuals, as opposed to a lesser number, is desirable as it contributes to a diversity of voices on the Committee.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Acting Chair O'Brien requested a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Member Burbidge and seconded by Member Burbidge, and unanimously approved by the membership. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Committee will take place August 1, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Corner

Minutes approved on: 8/1/2022

Jeanne Moline, Acting Chair, Economic Development Committee

Jeanne Moline