

**City Of Rolling Meadows
Economic Development Committee Minutes
Monday, August 1, 2022**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Craig Carlson
Roberta Marcinkus
Jenifer Vinezeano

Also Present:

Martha Corner, Business Advocate
Elizabeth Kwandras, Interim Superintendent of Community Development

Call to Order

Lacking an EDC Chair, Business Advocate Martha Corner established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2022 Meeting

Interim Superintendent of Community Development requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022 Economic Development Committee (EDC) regular meeting. A motion was made by Member O'Brien and seconded by Member Burbidge, and with no additional discussion the EDC minutes were unanimously approved by the membership.

Selection of Economic Development Committee Chair

Member Jeanine Molinelli volunteered to serve as EDC Chair. A motion was made by Member Laron and seconded by Member Ballantine to select Member Molinelli as Chair and with no additional discussion the EDC voted unanimously to select Member Molinelli as Chair.

The EDC discussed the matter of EDC member attendance remaining low, however usually enough for a quorum. Very briefly the EDC had discussion about continuing EDC based on lack of member attendance, however the EDC and City Staff quickly confirmed the value of the items the EDC has been working on and will continue to work on during 2022/2023.

2022 Goals Discussion Continued

Chairman Molinelli 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.

Upon review and discussion the EDC noted that quite a lot of the proposed 2022 EDC Goals were completed or in process, in particular the approved Retail & Restaurant Incentive Programs and the proposed Outdoor Seating and Landscaping and Grant program that will be reviewed by City

Council and an upcoming Committee-of-the-Whole meeting for program and budget considerations.

Business Advocate Martha Corner stated that among the 2023 EDC efforts there would be the development of a City-wide Economic Development Strategic Plan. EDC members agreed the strategic planning effort would be a good use of their time.

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 July 2022 new business list and various members agreed to contact the businesses as follows:

- Still Waters Preschool Co-Op and Educational Services – Heather Larson
- Quantic 3PL Solutions LCC – Jeanine Molinelli

Staff Reports – Business Advocate Update

Ms. Corner reported the following:

- The owner of planned restaurant Meltz Bar & Grill is proceeding with improvements to the former Asian Tokyo location (1655 West Algonquin Road) and has applied for a liquor license. Opening date to be determined.
- The owner of the former Taco Bell (2773 Kirchoff Road) has assigned a representative to actively market the location for lease or sale. City Staff contacted the representative of Citadel Real Estate who is marketing the two adjacent vacant sites on behalf of Clark Street Development and provided the Taco Bell real estate contact information. Assisting with leads for all properties.

- City Staff provided a national restaurant chain real estate representative with information on the former Steak-N-Shake location (1501 West Algonquin Road). The chain is expanding in the Chicago area. The representative expressed interest in the location and is in contact with the leasing broker for the vacant restaurant.
- Attorneys on behalf of ATS Life Sciences/Sortimat (5655 Meadowbrook Court) are in the process of applying for Cook County Class 6b Property Tax Incentive renewal. ATS/Sortimat recently completed approximately \$3,046,687 in improvements to the Rolling Meadows facility.
- A new retail broker is actively marketing/leasing the former Egglectic Café property (2905 Algonquin Road). He has been in contact with several interested parties and showings have been taking place recently. Restaurant Incentive information has been provided to the broker and some prospective tenants.
- HK Tae Kwon Do has expressed interest in opening a martial arts school at the long vacant space in Rolling Meadows Shopping Center next to Rep's Place (3024 Kirchoff Road). Business owner is working on an application for a special use to operate the school.
- The owner of new business Ding Tea has leased the space adjacent to La Michoacana Ice Cream at 2226 W. Algonquin Road. Remodeling permits are in progress, Restaurant Incentive information has been provided.
- The owner of new optical store All That Eyes has leased vacant space at 1915 Plum Grove Road (Squire Court Shopping Center). Remodeling permits are in process, Retail Incentive information has been provided.

Items of Interest in the City

None.

Issues Not on the Agenda

The EDC discussed ongoing concerns with appearance/debris at the State Route 53/Algonquin interchange and limited/no response from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). EDC members will work with City Staff and draft a letter, on behalf of the EDC, to IDOT to see if they can assist in this appearance matter being addressed.

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 6:41 p.m.

EDC members agreed to cancel the September 2022 EDC meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Committee will take place October 3, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Corner

Minutes approved on: 10/3/2022

Jeanine Molinelli,
Jeanine Molinelli, Chair, Economic Development Committee