

**AGENDA**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m. – Darien City Hall**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2023**
- 4. EDC Member Updates/New Topic Proposals**
- 5. New Business**
  - a) Monthly Update – Business Liaison & Recruitment Coordinator**
    - i. Business Survey & Outreach Materials (PAGE 4)**
- 6. Old Business**
  - a) Monthly Update – Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion**
- 7. Staff Updates**
- 8. Next Scheduled Meeting – April 6, 2023**
- 9. Adjournment**

**City of Darien**  
**Minutes Economic Development Committee**  
**Thursday, February 2, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM. Committee members present were Jonathan Christ, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Nick Pitzer, and Bob Taft. Also present was Mayor Joe Marchese and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2022**

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**4. EDC Member Updates/New Topic Proposals**

Chairperson Papais gave update on status of the Chamber of Commerce and discussions at the City Council level in January. Committee was informed that the City Council would be considering a motion at their next meeting that would result in all Darien businesses being provided a membership to the Chamber for one year.

**5. New Business**

**a) Monthly Update – Business Liaison & Recruitment Coordinator**

Committee member Mallers spoke on new role as Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator. Mallers informed the Committee of the position's tasks and duties, including business outreach, recruitment, and retention. Committee stated their support of the position and excitement over what can be accomplished moving forward.

**6. Old Business**

**a) Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion**

- i. Darien Towne Centre**
- ii. Marketplace at Darien**
- iii. Chestnut Court Shopping Center**

**iv. Plainfield Road/Clarendon Hills Road**

Staff indicated there would be monthly updates on the key development areas and other initiatives to develop or redevelop properties designated per the Comprehensive Plan update in 2022. Staff and the Committee briefly spoke about each area on the agenda and reiterated the need to take action, whether that is redevelopment, filling vacant spaces, or creating open space/parks.

**7. Staff Updates**

Quick discussion regarding current Sokol Court apartment project and new businesses open. Committee was informed that The Harmi Sushi is targeting an opening soon at Brookhaven Marketplace and that La Panza has already opened at the same center.

**8. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2023.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18PM.

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**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**



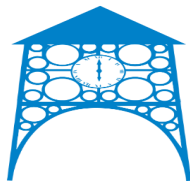
## DARIEN BUSINESS SURVEY

First and foremost, thank you for having your business in Darien. We appreciate you and want to do what we can to help you grow and succeed in your business. Please take a few moments to answer this brief survey for the City of Darien to better assist the business community.

1. What attracted you to open your business in Darien?
2. How long have you had your business in Darien?
3. What recommendations would you suggest to the city to further enhance the business community?
4. Would you recommend other types of businesses that would compliment your and/or the overall Darien community?
5. Are you a member of the Darien Chamber of Commerce and if not, would you consider being a part of it?
6. Would you be interested in attending Chamber "Lunch & Learns" with a guest speaker or attend "After Hours" Networking events at area establishments?

Thank you very much for your time and input. The results of this survey will be presented to our Economic Development Committee for discussion and review.

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Darien Chamber of Commerce

YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

The Darien Chamber of Commerce is a diverse group of Business professionals in and around the City of Darien area. Our membership also includes Schools, Public Service, and many Not-for-Profit organizations. The purpose of the Darien Chamber is to provide opportunities for your business to further promote, expand, and network to potential clients and customers.

Your Darien Chamber membership includes a [FREE Ribbon Cutting ceremony](#) not only for your grand opening, but for a new product, service promotion, and/or a company remodel or expansion!

Darien Chamber members are also listed in our annual [Community Magazine](#) both alphabetically and by business category free of charge. Additional advertising is available at an additional cost. This magazine is delivered to all chamber members and the general Darien Community.

FREE [Hot Deals](#) advertising! Promote your “special” on our website and shared with fellow members.

FREE [Job Postings!](#)

[Member Discounted pricing](#) to chamber events, luncheons, Business Expos, etc...

Some of our major events to host or sponsor your business at:

- [Darien Dash \(1 mile, 5k, and 10k run\) \(May 21, 2023\)](#) Runners from all over the Chicagoland area participate. Several opportunities to sponsor and participate in the onsite Business Expo.
- [DarienFest! \(Aug. 10th - 13<sup>h</sup>, 2023\)](#) A (4) Day Community festival with carnival rides, live bands, local food vendors, and a Business EXPO!
- [Las Vegas Casino Night! \(November 10, 2023\)](#) A Vegas style event featuring Casino Games, Food, Live Music, and cocktails. Plenty of Sponsorship Opportunities to showcase your business!

We host occasional “[Lunch & Learn](#)” and “[After Hours](#)” Networking events at various Darien area restaurants. We also partner with other West Suburban Chambers in hosting Multi-Chamber events and Business Expos.

Check us out at: [www.darienchamber.com](http://www.darienchamber.com) and like us on Facebook and Instagram!

Sincerely,

*April Padalik*

Executive Director

Darien Chamber of Commerce

*Your Connection to Community!*

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