

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, August 3, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM. Committee members present were Jonathan Christ, Bob Hahn, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, Bob Taft, Matt Weberling, and Steve Wernecke. Also present was City Clerk JoAnne Ragona and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

a) Year-to-Date (YTD) Recap & Summary

Chairperson Papais gave update on Committee activities through the first half of 2023. Discussion revolved around accomplishments by the Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator and past reports given to the Committee from business visits and surveys. The Committee spoke about future direction, which led to the fact that the EDC members will begin business visits again.

b) EDC Initiatives, Duties, & Tasks

i. Business Visits by Members

Dovetailing off of the prior meeting and earlier meeting discussion, the Committee spoke about re-initiating business visits by the members. Staff was directed to provide a list of businesses within one or more wards to so the members could decide which businesses to visit first. Along with the list of businesses staff will provide an overview of the current Economic Incentive process and send out the survey that was initiated by the Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator. All of these items will be further discussed at the following meeting to formalize a plan for the business visits by members.

ii. Other Ideas

This item was looped into the prior agenda item, as the Committee decided it is most important to initiate the business visits again. Other

incentive ideas and program examples should be discussed in the near future.

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Update – Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion

City Planner Jordan Yanke stated there are no substantial updates on any of the key areas. It should be noted that internal efforts are ongoing to bring prospective business tenants and redevelopment to the key development areas throughout the City.

6. Staff Updates & EDC Member Updates

Chairperson Papais gave update on Chamber of Commerce activities and events. The main highlight pertained to the Annual Darien Fest in mid-August.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be tentatively rescheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM.

APPROVED: _____

CHAIRPERSON