

City of Darien
Minutes Economic Development Committee
Thursday, March 2, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Committee members present were Jonathan Christ, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, and Bob Taft. Also present was Mayor Joe Marchese, Alderperson Mary Sullivan, and City Planner Jordan Yanke.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2023

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. EDC Member Updates/New Topic Proposals

Chairperson Papais gave update on recent Chamber of Commerce discussions at the City Council level. Committee was informed that the City Council approved a motion that results in all Darien businesses being provided a membership (no cost) to the Chamber for one year.

5. New Business

a) Monthly Update – Business Liaison & Recruitment Coordinator

Committee member Mallers spoke on role as Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator. Mallers reminded the Committee of the position's tasks and duties, including business outreach, recruitment, and retention. Mallers provided update on progress made through the first couple of months. Committee reaffirmed their support of the position and excitement over what can be accomplished moving forward.

6. Old Business

a) Monthly Update – Concept Plans & Key Areas Discussion

City Planner Jordan Yanke mentioned this agenda item will appear as a monthly update going forward. Brief updates were given pertaining to current or upcoming internal discussions staff will have with PineTree Management

(Chestnut Court), Mid-America (Darien Towne Centre), and other owners that have property that has been looked at for development opportunities in the past. Committee discussion ensued and mainly focused on revitalizing existing shopping centers by filling vacancies and potentially redevelopment if an opportunity arises.

7. Staff Updates

City Planner Jordan Yanke mentioned that High Haven dispensary would be opening in the Darien Plaza off Cass Avenue. Committee was informed that Harmi Sushi would be having a soft opening and ultimately grand opening in Brookhaven Shopping Center.

8. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2023.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

APPROVED: _____
CHAIRPERSON