

**City of Darien**  
**Minutes Economic Development Committee**  
**Thursday, June 1, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM. Committee members present were Bob Hahn, Lou Mallers, Tom Papais, and Bob Taft. Also present was City Planner Jordan Yanke.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes – May 4, 2023**

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**4. New Business**

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

Committee member Mallers provided monthly update on role as Business Liaison and Recruitment Coordinator. Updates revolved around vacant commercial space and discussions to fill spaces, mostly in primary shopping centers. More information garnered from the business survey was shared. Responses showed business owners like Darien's favorable geographic location and appreciate the Chamber of Commerce efforts. Business owners also said social media output by the City is key to their success and growth in becoming recognized and boosting business.

**b) EDC Initiatives, Duties, & Tasks**

**i. Business Visits by Members**

The Committee spoke about business visits by the members. A list of businesses throughout the City was included in the packet. Committee member Mallers will follow up with each member and run through a short list of businesses to visit for each person.

**ii. Grant/Incentive Program Examples**

Examples of grant/incentive type programs from surrounding communities were included in the meeting packet. Discussion ensued regarding opportunities for Darien to create specific grant programs and dollar amounts for certain types of projects (i.e. façade, sign, etc.).

More research into this to be done and brought to the Committee in the coming months. It was noted that Darien currently has an incentive request process but it is broad.

## **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 and recap of Darien Dash and Memorial Day Carnival events. Staff had no updates.

## **7. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be tentatively rescheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2023.

## **8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16PM.

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