



**VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Minutes**

I. Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Riverside Economic Development Commission was held May 10, 2023. Chairperson Forssberg called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairperson Forssberg
Commissioner Doherty
Commissioner MacNerland
Commissioner Orgler
Commissioner Valenzuela (left at 8:30)

Absent: Commissioner Kahle
Commissioner Wator

Also Present: Finance Director Johns
Fiscal Assistant Decosola
Communications Specialist Downing

III. **Public Comment**
None.

IV. **Approval of Minutes**

A. Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023.

Commissioner Valenzuela motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner MacNerland seconded the motion.

AYES: Doherty, MacNerland, and Valenzuela.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: Forssberg and Orgler.

ABSENT: Kahle and Wator.

Motion passed.

V. **Chair Report:** London Ice Cream shop is hosting a ribbon cutting on Thursday, May 11 at 3:15PM. Sherwin Williams is now open on Harlem and the cannabis store is moving forward.

VI. **Liaison Reports:**

A. Village Board Update: **None.**

B. Chamber of Commerce Update: Peter Janunas stated that the chamber will be present at the London Ice Cream shop ribbon cutting. The chamber is attempting to host an artisan market in the train station space with the help of the Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Doherty asked if the chamber had any plans for the summer. Peter Janunas stated that they will try to have the artisan market monthly or quarterly and they have approximately forty vendors that they can reach out to. Commissioner Orgler asked if there will be cruise nights this year. Janunas stated that cruise nights are going to be in June, July and August. Commissioner MacNerland asked if there are plans for promoting this event. Peter Janunas stated that there are plans of promotion and this will begin soon.

C. C4 Update:

Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that the cross community climate collaborative is between fifteen communities in western Cook County and the idea is that they signed onto a memorandum of understanding whereby year 2050 we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to zero and build community resiliency. Each community is taking different paths to achieve this goal by adhering to the basic principles. Climate issues do not stop at a border, so everyone must work on this together. Recently there have been community surveys that the C4 has created and they are reaching for the community's opinions and feedback. The prosperity pillar needs to be developed and the survey needs to be completed so that they can continue to move forward. Director Johns stated that there are a lot of items on the worksheet that go hand in hand with the 2023 goals of the Economic Development Commission such as ecotourism, increasing the overall awareness of Riverside, and possibly pivoting the grant to support local businesses that go green.

D. Staff Report:

Director Johns stated that London Ice Cream Shop is opening Thursday, May 11th. The Village Board did adopt to participate in a no cash bid for a property on Harlem, this process could take up to two years to retrieve the property from Cook County. There are a few new businesses that are coming to Riverside such as London Ice Cream Shop, Sherwin Williams is now open, a Tex Mex Restaurant at 7 Longcommon, Catrina Bar is looking to expand into a new location, Dulce Mami Café in the old Sips and Sweets

location. Current projects include Cubanito Express working on outdoor dining and renovations, Michael's Pancake House expanding into the next space over and Sawmilly is working on expanding and offering ice cream.

VII. Old Business

A. 2023 Goals:

1. **Attract New Business:** Director Johns asked if the commission had a chance to review the website and see if they had any suggestions. Chairperson Forsberg stated that he did look at it and it looks good. Commissioners MacNerland and Orgler stated that one of the links on the website were out of date and should reflect that we are not in the middle of the pandemic anymore. Director Johns stated that staff will update that.
2. **Support Local Business:** Director Johns stated that potentially doing seminars for new businesses was briefly brought up at the last meeting. Commissioner Kahle and staff have submitted responses in regards to the questionnaire about seminars and asked the commission if they were still interested. Director Johns stated that staff brought up recording resources and putting them on the website instead of hosting a one-time seminar. Chairperson Forsberg suggested collaborating with the chamber for something like this. Commissioner Doherty stated that this event should be open to the public and not limited to chamber members only. Director Johns stated that there is not a lot of money in the economic development commission for this year, but if it is something that the commission is interested in they can look at budgeting for it next year. Chairperson Forsberg volunteered to gather a few speaker suggestions, gather opinions from the commission and tie the chamber into the event.
3. **Increase Awareness of Riverside:** Director Johns stated that the social media calendar is attached to the agenda packet and to please let her know if the commission would like any edits to it. Director Johns encouraged the commissioners to advise her if they would like to work together on promoting one business for the Illinois Program Maker award. Commissioner Valenzuela suggested to inform businesses that a Facebook page does not compensate for a company website. Director Johns stated that the visitor center had previously been put together between the EDC and the chamber. She asked the commission what they thought was important to keep in the visitor center and what they would like to add or update. Commissioner Doherty suggested getting new plexiglass, replace the bump out with the QR code that leads to the website that Amy created for the businesses in town.

- B. Business Parking-South of the Tracks:** Fiscal Assistant Decosola stated that the parking trial for south of the tracks has just gone over one year and the Village Board is looking for an update and a formal recommendation on what to do next. Commissioner Valenzuela suggested looking into a different timeline instead of quarterly renewals.

Director Johns stated that it is something they need to be careful with due to possible employee turnover within businesses. Some of the options for a formal recommendation include extending the trial with our without revisions, make code amendments to make the trial permanent, return to pretrial parking restrictions, reduce the number or eliminate of business parking spaces along the tracks, long term lease or sale of those parking spaces along the tracks for residential or commuter. Commissioner Orgler asked if staff has noticed an increase of parking since the signage was place. Director Johns stated that the CSO's visit the lot several times a week and they reported that it is still pretty vacant. Commissioner Orgler made a motion to extend the trial. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion.

AYES: Doherty, Forssberg, MacNerland, Orgler, Valenzuela.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Kahle and Wator.

VIII. **New Business**

A. Artisan Market Collaboration with the Chamber: Director Johns asked the commission if they would like to co-sponsor with the chamber for an artisan market. Commissioner Orgler stated that he is interested and asked if the chamber is asking for the co-sponsorship. Director Johns stated that all Village sponsored events, even co-sponsored, the rental would be waived, but the cleaning fees would still need to be paid by the commission or the chamber.

IX. **Informational Items**

None.

X. **Adjournment**

Chairperson Forssberg asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orgler motioned to adjourn. Commissioner MacNerland seconded.

AYES: Doherty, Forssberg, MacNerland, Orgler.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Kahle, Valenzuela, and Wator.

Motion passed.

Chairperson Forssberg adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Finance Director Johns

Date Approved