

**Village of Algonquin
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum

PRESENT: Members: Chairperson Jerry Pinderski, Dave Ward, Kurt Moders, Linda Laipert, Steve Karaba, Rich Galati, and Tom McCabe. Staff: Russ Farnum, Katie Parkhurst, and Tim Schloneger
Absent: none. The EDC welcomed Tim Schloneger and everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the June 13, 2013 meeting

Acting Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the June 13, 2013 meeting. Ms. Laipert made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2013 meeting and Mr. Ward seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

Agenda Item 3: Transportation Reports and Discussion

Mrs. Parkhurst provided an overview of the Western Bypass project and the current status. She highlighted the Village's encouragement of the Downtown Algonquin Partnership to promote "construction sales" to entice people to come Downtown during the construction.

Mr. Moders said the communication between the project manager and the business has been good. The construction has not been too difficult for his business to work around.

Mr. Ward asked if there had been any changes to the project since construction has begun. Mr. Schloneger stated there are always minor changes as projects are underway. However, the biggest change for the Village has been the need to install a watermain through the construction area. After the Village completed a Water System Master Plan, it was determined that a large watermain should be installed. The Village has worked with IDOT in order to allow the Village to install this watermain during the construction. The Village has also been working with IDOT to install a bicycle path as part of the construction project.

Mr. Galati inquired if all four lanes on Algonquin Road would be open for the winter. Mr. Moders stated the project manager had informed him that all four lanes would be open; however, it will still narrow to one lane in each direction around the new bridge so work can continue in preparation of the bridge installation.

Mrs. Parkhurst provided an overview of the Longmeadow Parkway project. Kane County is spearheading the efforts of this project and they are moving forward. Phase I engineering is underway and contracts were just signed for Phase II engineering. The County is still looking at various financing options.

Chairperson Pinderski asked if the bridge is still planned to be a toll bridge. Mr. Schloneger stated yes. The County will sign an intergovernmental agreement with the Toll Authority so I-Pass can be used. More than just the tolls will be needed to finance the project.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired if the construction will include two lanes or four lanes. Mr. Schloneger stated he is not sure yet what will be the final construction phasing.

Mr. Ward inquired about floating the bonds with the repayment from the tolls. Will the tolls be removed once the bonds are paid for? Mr. Schloneger stated most likely no, as then maintenance will be needed so the tolls would probably remain.

Mr. Ward inquired if the project would be constructed in phases like the connection from Boyer Road to Randall Road or if the entire project has to wait for the bridge financing. Mr. Farnum stated the project would most likely be done in phases and Boyer to Randall should be one of the first phases.

Mrs. Parkhurst provided an overview of the Randall Road improvements study that McHenry County is spearheading. Mr. Schloneger stated the Village is very involved in the discussions that McHenry County has regarding improvements to this vital corridor. The County will be hearing a presentation from TranSystems next week. This is a new engineering consultant to work on Phase II engineering. Mr. Schloneger states he brings a fresh perspective to the proposed Randall and Algonquin Roads intersection improvements discussion as does the different consultant because they were not involved in all the talks about the CFI (Continuous Flow Intersection). Mr. Schloneger hopes to work with the County and Lake in the Hills to move forward to a solution that will be agreeable to everyone. We need to collaborate in order to obtain federal funding. A fresh look will evaluate what is the condition today, how long do we want to wait for a solution, what happens to traffic flow, access points, and businesses in various scenarios.

Chairperson Pinderski asked if the CFI is a dead idea. Mr. Schloneger stated the ultimate intersection improvements will function like a CFI and/or have components of that design.

Mr. Karaba inquired why Lake in the Hills was so opposed to the CFI. Mr. Schloneger stated both communities need the other to be successful, so we have to address all concerns and work together.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired when movement would happen on this project. Mr. Schloneger stated the Village Board will have a presentation from the County in the next month. Plans from the new consultant would be several months away.

Mr. McCabe pointed out that some access points should be closed now as they are dangerous. He also stated a frontage road system is needed to help with access to the businesses.

Mr. Ward commented that timing the lights on Randall Road would help with traffic flow.

Mrs. Laipert stated the only thing missing for all the transportation discussions was public transit. She inquired if Algonquin could be a pilot project for PACE to have a route from a parking lot to a train station at appropriate times. Mrs. Parkhurst shared that Kane County is working on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project along Randall Road in Kane County. The Village has worked with the County to have the study include Algonquin, originally it was going to stop at I-90. McHenry County is also working on improving PACE routes and schedules. Mrs. Laipert suggested talking to Metra and PACE to determine ridership and set up a pilot project in Algonquin.

Agenda Item 4: Other Business

Mrs. Parkhurst told the EDC that Fall edition of the Business Connection newsletter was emailed to 326 businesses and mailed to 383, so we almost have half of the businesses emails. The next EDC meeting will be November 14th.

Mrs. Laipert inquired if the Village hosts luncheons for businesses and suggested that Mr. Joe McKeown would be an excellent speaker.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired if the Village was going to organize a fall or spring luncheon for the Algonquin Corporate Campus. Mr. Farnum stated there are no current plans to host a luncheon at this point; however, staff does keep in contact with the brokers and property owners.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired about recruiting a data center to Algonquin. Mr. Farnum stated staff has a meeting with ComEd later this month to discuss power availability in the Algonquin Corporate Campus.

Mr. Ward asked in the Village receives advance notice of businesses closing, for example Mimi's. Mrs. Parkhurst stated the Village usually does not receive any advanced notice. A broker has already called about marketing that building, so hopefully it will be refilled quickly. Mr. Farnum mentioned that the Village has a subscription to CoStar which will provide data on vacancies that can be compared to other areas to get a better sense of how the Village is doing.

Agenda Item 5: Adjournment

There was no further business to discuss; the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Approved:



Jerry Pinderski, Chairperson, EDC