

**Village of Algonquin  
Economic Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2008  
7:00 p.m.**

**Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum**

PRESENT: Members: Chairperson Steve Karaba, Jerry Pinderski, Mary Fioretti, Jack Navarrete, and Linda Laipert. Staff: Katie Parkhurst and Russ Farnum. Absent: Tom McCabe and Mike Agee.

**Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the September 11, 2008 meeting.**

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the September 11, 2008 meeting. Ms. Fioretti made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2008 meeting and Mr. Pinderski seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

**Agenda Item 3: Introduce Russ Farnum, Community Development Director**

Mrs. Katie Parkhurst introduced Russ Farnum to the Commission. Russ is the new Community Development Director for the Village.

Mr. Pinderski welcomed Russ to Algonquin and inquired about his experience in recruiting corporate users to DeKalb. Mr. Farnum stated the City worked with the County to recruit tenants to the City. He looks forward to working with Algonquin and growing the Algonquin Corporate Campus.

**Agenda Item 4: Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing Study Update**

Mrs. Parkhurst provided a summary of the public meeting held to discuss the Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing Study. Christopher Burke Engineering has begun the study. They are looking at an overpass option and tunnel option at each of the following locations: Bunker Hill, Harnish, County Line, Longmeadow and mid-point between Harnish and Bunker Hill. In addition, they are proposing at grade improvements for Bunker Hill and County Line Road. The study will include cost estimates, elevations, and challenges for each location.

The next public meeting will be in January to review the various options. Staff will keep the EDC informed of the progress.

Mr. Pinderski inquired about the need for the pedestrian crossing. Mrs. Parkhurst stated that residents, staff, and elected officials have all commented on the need of a safe crossing for Randall Road.

Chairperson Karaba inquired how the residents reacted at the meeting. Mrs. Parkhurst stated the residents wanted more information, however after they got over the hurdle of just having to

answer the questions without having answers, they enjoyed the meeting. The small groups came up with a variety of responses to the questions.

Ms. Fioretti inquired what will be the end result of the study. Mrs. Parkhurst explained that the study will provide options with cost estimates for various crossing of Randall Road. This will allow the Village to budget for a crossing, work with other agencies to install a crossing and to apply for grants.

Mr. Navarrete suggested a trolley could be used to shuttle shoppers between all the shopping centers on Randall Road. The merchants could share the cost of the trolley service.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Business Award Nominations**

Mrs. Parkhurst reviewed the Business Award program with the EDC and asked for nominations of businesses to receive the awards. The nominations will be presented at the January EDC meeting.

Ms. Laipert recommended Accent Floral for the Community Service Award. They have worked with Algonquin Middle School and Dundee Crown to provide flowers for all the concerts and plays free of charge. They also provide the flowers for other school functions with little to no cost.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Business Development Update**

Mrs. Parkhurst walked the EDC through the various commercial and residential projects active in the Village.

The highlights included: Esplanade Phase 2 has started construction, Wal-mart's expansion to a Super Wal-mart, restaurants in the Galleria, Oakridge Court, Creeks Crossing, and Riverside Square.

Chairperson Karaba inquired about the status of Main Street Commons. Ms. Parkhurst stated this project is on hold with the decline in the housing market. The developer has cleaned up the site, which is very beneficial to the Village.

Ms. Laipert inquired about the status of the old toastmaster building. Ms. Parkhurst responded that the Village is working with the property owner to secure the site and encourage demolition of the building. The Village is also working with the County and State to speed up the land acquisition of this property for the Western Bypass.

Chairperson Karaba inquired how well the retailers at Algonquin Commons are doing. Ms. Parkhurst stated that Algonquin Commons is doing everything they can to keep the center filled. They have started doing temporary leases to encourage smaller businesses to locate in the Commons.

Mr. Pinderski inquired if a tenant has been found for the old Claddagh building. Ms. Parkhurst was pleased to announce that the Barley House would be opening in January in this location.

**Other Business**


Ms. Fioretti mentioned that the Village should contact Jones Lang LaSalle to inform them about the Algonquin Corporate Campus. Ms. Parkhurst stated she did send an email and has not heard anything back.

Mrs. Parkhurst reminded the EDC that the next meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item 7: Adjournment**

There was no further business to discuss; the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Steve Karaba, Chairperson, EDC