

**Village of Algonquin
Economic Development Commission
March 12, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum

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

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the January 8, 2009 meeting.

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the January 8, 2009 meeting. Mr. Pinderski made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2009 meeting and Ms. Fioretti seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

Agenda Item 3: Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing Study

Mrs. Katie Parkhurst informed the EDC of the upcoming public meeting on the Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing study to be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 7:00pm at Jacobs High School. The EDC is invited to attend the meeting. The study examined five locations for possible crossings of Randall Road and detailed at grade crossing, tunnel and bridge options at each location.

Mr. Pinderski inquired about the location of preference. Ms. Parkhurst stated the public opinion from the first meeting ranked Bunker Hill as the top preference and County Line Road as second. The study also includes a mid-block location between Bunker Hill Drive and Harnish Drive. This option is the most favorable among Village staff.

Mr. McCabe talked about the costs associated with bridges and tunnels and the benefits or negatives to each.

Agenda Item 4: Business Visitation Report

Mrs. Parkhurst reported on the February 4th Business Visitation with the India Curry House. The restaurant owner, Nariza Faheem, contacted staff after reading the Business Connection newsletter to schedule the visit. The visit was very successful and staff was able to answer a lot of her questions or provide the correct contact person. Ms. Faheem has goals to expand the restaurant in terms of seating capacity and services offered.

Chairperson Karaba inquired why the previous owner sold the business. Mr. Farnum replied the previous owner was overwhelmed with being the chef, manager, and owner of the business. The previous owner has stayed on as the chef during the transition period.

Agenda Item 5: Algonquin Corporate Campus Marketing

Mrs. Parkhurst explained the Village's strategy for marketing the Algonquin Corporate Campus during the downturn in the economy. The Village hosted a meeting of all stakeholders in the Algonquin Corporate Campus (including brokers, developers and property owners) on February 26th. This meeting was very positive and all parties walked away with items to work on. Village staff will be updating all marketing materials, both print and website; creating a site plan that reflects what is currently built and what is available for the entire ACC; create a handout explaining the expedited review process and to follow up with the group. The stakeholders are to review their marketing materials and provide updates to staff.

Mr. Pinderski inquired about any negative feedback from the group. Ms. Parkhurst stated the group needed a better understanding of the building permit review process. The expedited review process needs to be clearly spelled out and followed in order to make the industrial deals work.

Mr. McCabe agreed that it is very helpful if the entire process is clearly spelled out so everyone knows what to expect. He also suggested that the standards be on the website so engineers and architects can pull Village standards easily to put on plan sets.

Ms. Fioretti commented that follow up with the group is critical. Send them status emails even if we are not ready to meet with them yet.

Chairperson Karaba inquired who attended the meeting, was it brokers or property owners. Ms. Parkhurst stated both, several of the property owners do their own marketing and one property owner came with their broker.

Ms. Parkhurst updated the EDC on two broker meetings, one with Anderson Associates and one with Friedman Company.

Ms. Parkhurst told the EDC the Village placed an advertisement in Bennuzi's BIG Industrial Guide since the price was right.

Ms. Parkhurst presented a new idea to market the ACC is through promoting Algonquin's quality of life. Staff is working with Jeff Kennedy, a local artist, to design posters depicting various aspects of Village life. The goal being the quality of life pictures will grab attention versus the traditional site plan of the property. Staff will keep the EDC informed as details of this artist promotion as it moves forward.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

Mrs. Parkhurst mentioned the next edition of the Business Connection newsletter will be sent out in the next month or so. To address Ms. Fioretti's comments the newsletter will include a request for email addresses so future editions can be sent via email to the businesses.

Ms. Fioretti told the EDC about Elgin Day 2009. All the stakeholders of Elgin got together and went to Springfield to lobby for State funding. The event was very successful and many legislators met with the group.

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

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

Approved:



Steve Karaba, Chairperson, EDC