

**Village of Algonquin
Economic Development Commission
May 14, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum

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

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting.

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting. Mr. Pinderski made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting and Ms. Laipert 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 progress of the Randall Road Pedestrian Crossing Study. The second public meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 7:00pm at Jacobs High School. Christopher Burke Engineering presented the draft study and the participants were asked to complete a survey ranking their preferences. The study examined five locations for possible crossings of Randall Road and detailed at grade crossing, tunnel and bridge options at each location. The study also provided pros and cons for each location and type of crossing and cost estimates. The final study will be presented to the Village in late May or June for approval. After approval the Village can investigate funding methods for construction.

Chairperson Karaba inquired if funding has been set aside for construction. Ms. Parkhurst stated not at this time, the first step in the process was to complete the study. Chairperson Karaba inquired which agency would permit the construction. Ms. Parkhurst explained that Randall Road is controlled by McHenry or Kane County; therefore they would be the permitting agency.

Mr. Pinderski inquired about doing more at grade crossings, since this option is more affordable. Ms. Parkhurst explained the Counties positions on pedestrians within their right-of-ways. Mr. Pinderski wondered if there was more the Village could do to encourage the Counties to change their minds.

Ms. Laipert inquired if more public comments would be sought. Ms. Parkhurst explained the two meetings were geared toward gathering public comments. The presentation to the Committee of the Whole will be a public meeting and additional comments will be accepted at that meeting.

Agenda Item 4: 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 will host the second stakeholders meeting (including brokers, developers and property owners within the ACC) on May 21st. At the upcoming meeting staff will present the accelerated review process for projects in the ACC, something the developers requested. Also staff will show the updated marketing materials including a new site plan for the entire ACC.

Chairperson Karaba asked about the volume of building permits currently under review. Ms. Parkhurst stated there are a few residential permits for new construction, many decks, pools, sheds, fences, etc and some commercial projects. Staff is able to keep up with the volume.

Mr. Pinderski stated financing is still very tough to obtain. He commented that owner occupied buildings and smaller companies will make the Algonquin Corporate Campus successful in the long-term.

Agenda Item 5: GIS on Website

Ms. Parkhurst explained the new GIS feature on the Village website to the EDC. This is beneficial for everyone using the website, but can be a marketing tool for all Village businesses. The Village has included all Village businesses on the GIS map. Staff is working to get complete information from businesses (website, phone, fax, etc) so the listings are useful. Staff is also attempting to get email addresses for the businesses so the Business Connection can be sent via email instead of mail.

Ms. Laipert commented that businesses should be willing to provide the information as it is helpful to their business.

Agenda Item 6: Development Update

Mrs. Parkhurst provided an update of all active development projects in the Village. The highlights included the recent store openings of Binny's Beverage Depot, TJ Maxx, and Men's Wearhouse.

Mr. Pinderski inquired about additional stores in the Oakridge Court development. Ms. Parkhurst stated the large anchor tenants are open; however, there are additional smaller retail spaces still available.

Chairperson Karaba inquired about if the Sign Code has a restriction on how early a sign may be installed before the store opens for business. Ms. Parkhurst stated there is only a requirement on taking down the sign if the business closes.

Chairperson Karaba inquired how the furniture stores are doing. Ms. Parkhurst mentioned from drive-by surveys business appears to be holding steady. Staff has not talked to the individual stores. A new furniture store (Relax Furniture) is moving into the old Wickes building.

Agenda Item 7: Other Business

Mr. Farnum highlighted the Small Business Development Center counseling available at the Chamber office. The Chamber has arranged for a representative from either McHenry County College or Elgin Community College to hold office hours at the Chamber office on Tuesday mornings.

Chairperson Karaba inquired if the SBDC will help existing businesses and what is the fee. Mr. Farnum explained the SBDC will assist existing businesses or new businesses and is paid for through property taxes to the College.

Mrs. Parkhurst mentioned the Spring edition of the Business Connection newsletter was sent out in April and the Summer edition will be sent out in June.

Mr. Farnum informed the EDC about upcoming events within the Village and encouraged them to attend.

Ms. Parkhurst reminded everyone the next EDC meeting is June 11th.

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment

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

Approved:



Steve Karaba, Chairperson, EDC