

**Village of Algonquin  
Economic Development Commission  
January 14, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the September 10, 2009 meeting.**

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the September 10, 2009 meeting. Ms. Laipert made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2009 meeting and Mr. Pinderski seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

**Agenda Item 3: Annual Business Award Presentation**

Mrs. Katie Parkhurst gave a powerpoint presentation on the businesses that may be awarded the 2010 Business Awards. This year there are three award categories with six potential businesses to be awarded.

Mr. Pinderski expressed concern in recognizing the restaurant nomination since they filled a vacancy and the other restaurants in the Algonquin Commons were not recognized previously for their investment of constructing a new building.

Ms. Fioretti expressed the view that the restaurant could have located in vacant restaurant space in neighboring communities but chose to locate in Algonquin. This is economic development since a building that was vacant is now filled. It was suggested that restaurants maybe need to have different criteria or a separate award category.

Rehabilitation/Improvement Award—Mitch Weisz, “Old Strandell Building” located at 2025 E. Algonquin Rd

Rehabilitation/Improvement Award—Michael Marotta, 150 South Main St

Community Service Award—Downtown Algonquin Partnership

Community Economic Impact Award—Walmart, 1410 South Randall Rd

Community Economic Impact Award—Brunswick Zone XL, 1611 South Randall Rd

The consensus was to remove the restaurant from the list of award recipients. Mr. Pinderski made a motion to accept the business awards as presented with the removal of the restaurant and Ms. Laipert seconded the motion. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item 4: 2010-2011 Budget**

Mr. Farnum reviewed the current Village budget and the proposed Village budget in general terms with the EDC. Mr. Farnum then walked the EDC through the proposed EDC budget for next fiscal year.

Mr. Pinderski commented that people generally shop close to work; therefore we still need to focus on increasing the employment opportunities within the Village. Mr. Pinderski expressed concern that Algonquin has too much retail and needs to focus more on corporate and industrial businesses recruitment. The perception needs to be Algonquin is a business hub, not a retail hub.

Chairperson Karaba indicated the effort is focused on recruitment for the Algonquin Corporate Campus but the deals are not getting done. What needs to happen to close the deals?

Ms. Fioretti noted the Village would not do a TIF (Tax Increment Finance) District which many other industrial parks have. Ms. Fioretti inquired about trucking companies. Mr. Farnum explained that a TIF is not feasible for green field development projects. The Village is not opposed to trucking operations; however we have to be careful to not overload our roadways.

Mr. Pinderski suggested that the EDC invite the presidents or CEO's of the local businesses to meet with staff and the EDC to discuss their needs and challenges. A "Captains of Industry" meeting should be held to open dialog with the companies.

Ms. Laipert inquired if the work the consultants did provided a list of types of industry that fit with Algonquin. Mr. Farnum stated yes and that staff could provide this list again to the EDC.

Mr. Navarrete made a motion to accept the budget as presented and Ms. Fioretti seconded the motion. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed

#### **Agenda Item 5: Development Updates**

Mrs. Parkhurst reviewed the business openings and closings from October through December with the Commission.

Staff is working on obtaining email addresses for all businesses, so that the Business Connection newsletter can be sent out via email. The current Business Connection newsletter was emailed to 153 businesses and mailed to about 530 businesses.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Discussion of Core Programs**

Ms. Parkhurst reported on the Business Visitation with Quality Werks Auto Body. The Commission noted how clean the business operations were and the salaries of the employees are high. Staff did follow up with the business owner regarding the Village policy on towing.

The Commission noted that business visits are a great way to communicate with the businesses and to provide assistance if possible. The Commission noted Saturday visits would be

acceptable to them if appropriate for a business; otherwise first thing in the morning works well for everyone's schedules.

Ms. Parkhurst reviewed the four core EDC programs (Business Retention, Business Recruitment, Algonquin Corporate Campus, and Downtown Revitalization) with the Commission. Staff is looking for direction on moving forward with each of these programs considering the lean budget year as well. The Commission recommended that staff continue to do as much work with each core program as possible in house, using staff time and resources.

**Agenda Item 7: Other Business**

Ms. Parkhurst provided the Commission with a schedule of EDC meeting for the 2010 calendar year.

**Agenda Item 8: Adjournment**

There was no further business to discuss; the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Steve Karaba, Chairperson, EDC