

**Village of Algonquin
Economic Development Commission
May 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum

PRESENT: Members: Chairperson Steve Karaba, Jerry Pinderski, Kurt Moders, Rich Galati, and Linda Laipert. Staff: Katie Parkhurst and Russ Farnum. Absent: Tom McCabe and Mary Fioretti.

Agenda Item 2: Introduce New Commission Member

Chairperson Karaba introduced and welcomed new commission member, Rich Galati.

Agenda Item 3: Approve Minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting. Ms. Laipert made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting and Mr. Moders seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

Agenda Item 4: Business Visitation Report

Mrs. Parkhurst gave a brief summary of the business visitation conducted in April. Staff and Mary Fioretti met with Kenmode Tool and Engineering, located on West Algonquin Road.

Chairperson Karaba inquired about the timing of the Western Bypass project. Mrs. Parkhurst stated that demolition of the buildings along Algonquin Road is currently taking place. Grading in the gravel pit should begin this fall.

Mrs. Parkhurst encouraged the EDC to recommend places to visit. Mr. Pinderski suggested touring Gordman's prior to opening the store if possible.

Agenda Item 5: Brainstorm Follow Up—Business Recruitment

Mrs. Parkhurst explained the next few EDC meetings would focus on follow up from the November brainstorming meeting. This month the topic is the Business Recruitment. Each of the priority items were discussed in more detail.

Research and Development—Focus on the lead technologies and industries such as bio-engineering, medical, incubators, phone apps, bio-fuels and the like. Ms. Laipert commented that pilot plants are very expensive to construct and operate and there are some environmental impacts. Attracting a university to Algonquin would be ideal. Mr. Pinderski mentioned a big name university to offer graduate degrees or a technical school to train workers would both be important. Chairperson Karaba suggested contacting university presidents to see about interest and who to work with at the university.

Health Care/Insurance Industry—Due to Algonquin's unique position centrally located among the hospitals that serve the region, Algonquin is ideal for supporting uses. Doctor offices, labs, rehabilitation, medical supply, and billing centers would all benefit for locating in Algonquin. Mr. Pinderski mentioned a client of his operates a medical distribution company. He will talk to this client to inquire about opening a facility in Algonquin or at least about sharing information of the medical industry.

Advertising Opportunities—Staff researched print ads in the Wall Street Journal and Hemisphere Magazine and found them to be very cost prohibitive. Online ads through Yahoo or AOL are also pricey. Mr. Moders suggested marketing the website more and tracking hits and checking to make sure Algonquin comes up in key word searches. Mr. Pinderski suggested an article in the Algonquin citizen to remind our residents of the Algonquin Corporate Campus and that they could work close to home.

Strengthen Business Networks—The Village hosts meetings with the owners and brokers of the Algonquin Corporate Campus to facilitate communication. Mr. Pinderski inquired as to how many people attend these meetings. Mrs. Parkhurst noted that 15-20 people attend. The business visitation program also keeps the Village in tune with existing businesses.

Industry Trade Shows—The Village may attend trade shows in the future of specific target industries. Mr. Moders suggested going as an attendee first, rather than having a booth. This would be an opportunity to see how the trade show works, see if others are there marketing locations and how they do it, this option would also be cheaper. Mr. Pinderski suggested contacting the American Medical Association to find out about target trade shows.

Suppliers to largest employers—The idea is to contact the larger employers in the area to see who and where their suppliers are. The suppliers can then be contacted to see about having an Algonquin location.

Village staff encourages the EDC members to keep Algonquin in mind when having conversations with others, as networking is the best form of advertising. Staff is open to suggestions of companies to contact regarding new locations or relocations. Please call or email with contact information.


Agenda Item 6: Other Business

Mrs. Parkhurst announced at the June meeting staff will present an update on all development activity in the Village. Mrs. Parkhurst announced the next edition of the Business Connection newsletter will be mailed in early June. If there are any suggestions of information to include, please let her know.

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

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

Approved:



Steve Karaba, Chairperson, EDC