

**Village of Algonquin
Economic Development Commission
September 8, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum

PRESENT: Members: Chairperson Steve Karaba, Jerry Pinderski, Kurt Moders, Tom McCabe, Linda Laipert, and Rich Galati. Staff: Katie Parkhurst and Ben Mason. Absent: none.

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the June 9, 2011 meeting

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the June 9, 2011 meeting. Mr. Pinderski made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2011 meeting and Mr. Moders seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

Agenda Item 3: Business Visitation Report

Mrs. Parkhurst gave a brief summary of the business visitation conducted in July and August. Staff met with Gordmans, located at 1500 South Randall Road; Hartt's Salon Energy on Main, located at 122 South Main; Creekside Tap, located at 7 South Main; and David Drew Ink Art Studio, located at 106 South Main.

Mr. Pinderski inquired if there is a new tenant for the former Barley House restaurant. Mrs. Parkhurst stated there is an interested restaurant talking with the Village about remodeling and working out lease details with Algonquin Commons.

Ms. Laipert inquired if the former Circuit City would be an H.H. Greg store. Mrs. Parkhurst informed her that it will be Ross Dress for Less.

Agenda Item 4: Downtown Algonquin

Mrs. Parkhurst explained the Downtown report is the follow up from the November brainstorming meeting. This month the topic is the Downtown Development. Each of the priority items were discussed in more detail. Mr. Ben Mason gave a power point presentation highlighting the following items happening in the Downtown area:

Riverside Square project has a new developer and work on the building has resumed. The outside of the building should be finished up this year and work will begin on the interior over the winter. The sales office will open on site later this month. Mr. Pinderski inquired if there has been interest in the retail units. Mr. Mason stated he is unaware of interest in the retail and residential units at this time; however, the developer just started marketing the units. Chairperson Karaba raised concerns that public parking is no longer permitted in the parking garage. Mr. Mason explained that was changed as part of the new development agreement. There is plenty of parking on street and in municipal lots to support the retail units in the building.

The Western Bypass project is moving forward as property right-of-way has been acquired and buildings demolished. Construction may begin next year and will take 2-3 years for completion of the project. Mr. Pinderski suggested adding a visitor's center near the bike trail and Town Park as part of the project.

The Downtown Algonquin Partnership continues to work together to promote the Downtown. The Village will be hosting a meeting at the end of this month to brainstorm with the Partnership and any other businesses interested in joint marketing campaigns during the Western Bypass construction.

The Historic Commission has completed the self-guided Walking Tour Brochure. Mr. Mason provided copies of the brochure to all EDC members.

The Village has received a grant from CMAP to complete a Downtown analysis. This will evaluate land use, redevelopment, pedestrian linkages, and more as the Downtown changes due to the Western Bypass. Route 31 will become Main Street and under Village control once the Western Bypass, new Route 31, is open. Mr. Pinderski inquired why an outside consultant is needed for this project. Mr. Mason explained that was the grant requirement (no matching funds are required by the Village) and this will provide an expert on economic feasibility to provide insight into the Downtown. The project should begin early next year and will include public participation.

Mr. McCabe inquired about the Mobil station. Mr. Mason stated the self-storage is still in operation and the gas station is currently closed. The station will most likely reopen under different ownership.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business

Mrs. Parkhurst announced the fall edition of the Business Connection newsletter was mailed/emailed to all businesses this week. Mr. Moders inquired about the commercial scavenger licensing requirements. Mrs. Parkhurst explained the reasoning behind this program as step towards more commercial recycling and possibly one waste hauler in the future.

Mrs. Parkhurst informed the EDC that she contacted a few businesses in hopes of nominating them for the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation's Business Champion Award. The businesses contacted were not interested.

Ms. Laipert inquired about the fall clean up at Presidential Park. Mrs. Parkhurst stated this is a one day event where dumpsters will be provided for residents to bring larger items to discard/recycle. All dumpsters will be labeled and Village staff will monitor the event.

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