

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

January 7, 2025

A special meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Assistant Administrator Spencer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Meeting started by calling roll. Upon roll call, the following people were:

Present: Commissioners Raj Chiplunkar, Elizabeth Muhr, Scott Elza, and Matt Carolan

Absent: Chairman Cuyler Brown and Commissioner Tim Brangle

Also Present: Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

Commissioner Chiplunkar noted that Chairman Brown was unable to attend tonight's meeting, so a Chairman Pro-Tem should be elected for this meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Elza and seconded by Commissioner Muhr to elect Commissioner Chiplunkar as Chairman Pro-Tem for this meeting. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Pro-Tem Chiplunkar chose to skip this item at this time.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 3, 2025 AND EXECUTIVE SESSION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2025**

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Elza and seconded by Commissioner Muhr to approve the minutes from December 3, 2025. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

**5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING BUSINESS COMMUNITY
RETENTION/SUPPORT STRATEGIES AND COMMUNICATION**

Assistant Administrator Spencer updated that in December, the Village President attended a settlement conference between the former developer and Wintrust Bank. After several hours of discussion, the parties were unable to reach an agreement, however the Judge assured the Village that the site will continue to be properly maintained as they work towards a resolution. The next hearing date is January 29, 2026.

Commissioner Carolan asked if the property was being marketed for sale, Assistant Administrator Spencer confirmed that JLL was brokering the property since last February. Chairman Pro-Tem Chiplunkar asked what is going to happen next in the development process, Assistant Administrator Spencer stated that the Village Board was look forward to a proposed project announcement soon.

Also in December, Assistant Administrator Spencer and Commissioner Muhr briefly met to discuss the Business webpages on the Village's site to discuss improvements. These pages will continue to be updated to increase clarity and further work to support businesses in the Village.

Chairman Pro-Tem Chiplunkar asked about website traffic. Assistant Administrator Spencer said that the website host doesn't maintain metrics such as traffic. Discussion ensued regarding general visits to the website and potentially seeking a different web host that would provide statistics.

Assistant Administrator Spencer provided some business updates, including that Studio 19 Barre & Fitness recently installed a new awning at their location on North Avenue and received a grant from the Façade Program. This is the 2nd business to participate since its inception. Also, she noted that Whole Foods has begun working on the remodel in the existing space and is optimistic that they will have their renovations complete in the late spring. Discussion ensued regarding the renovations as well as the issuance of liquor licenses in the Village.

6. NORTH AVE MARKETING STRATEGY DISCUSSION

Assistant Administrator Spencer and Commissioner Brangle are still working on this project, optimistic to meet in the coming days to craft directions for the consultants.

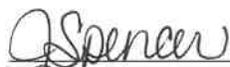
7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Muhr and seconded by Commissioner Carolan to adjourn the meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 6:21p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jessica Spencer, Assistant Village Administrator

Date: 2/5/2026