

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2021**

A meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Friday, May 14, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. in the 1st Floor Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Lee Neubecker, Timothy Brangle, Cuyler Brown, Robert Graham (arrived 7:37 a.m.), Carr Preston, Liz Holt

Absent: Donna Slepicka

Also Present: Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner and Katie Lowes

All members participated electronically.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - A MOTION was made by Mr. Preston and SECONDED by Mr. Brangle to approve the meeting minutes from April 9, 2021. MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote.

4. UPDATE ON VARIOUS PROJECTS

Acting Village Administrator Scheiner updated the Economic Development Commission on the status of the Village's efforts to having the funding under HB64 released for demolition activities at Village property in the Madison Street corridor. Ms. Scheiner also updated the Economic Development Commission on the efforts to market the development activity at the former LCFS and neighboring properties including the release of an Expression of Interest, site signage, website, and interaction with neighboring property owners. Mr. Brangle stated he would provide the Village with additional developer names to receive a copy of the Expression of Interest.

Chairman Neubecker summarized his efforts to work with the Illinois Restaurant Association to identify a potential restaurant tenant for the Lake and Park development site. Economic Development Commission members suggested obtaining a one-page summary of the development opportunities at Lake and Park and Lake and Lathrop to assist in the identification of potential tenants.

Ms. Scheiner informed the Economic Development Commission that Sedgwick development provided an update to the Village Board of Trustees on April 26, 2021 and stated that the

developer would return on May 24, 2021 for another update. In response to questions from Mr. Brown and Mr. Graham, Ms. Scheiner summarized the developer's timeline for permitting, foundation and vertical construction, and the developer's statements regarding their pre-sale activity and construction financing.

Chairman Neubecker informed the Economic Development Commission that The Sheridan would be conducting a tour for the Commission members on May 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Scheiner reminded the Commission that attendance will require the posting of a meeting agenda in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Neubecker discussed potential options to drive customers to Yolk and LaParallita.

5. DISCUSSION RE: BUSINESS RETENTION/ATTRACTION STRATEGIES

The Economic Development Commission discussed options for potential use of a portion of the \$1.34 million the Village expects to receive under the American Rescue Plan Act to support the local business community and economy.

Ms. Scheiner updated the Commission on the joint effort with the Chamber of Commerce to host listening sessions from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on June 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10, 2021 via Zoom. The Commissioners agreed that facilitated discussions would be recorded for viewing by members of the Economic Development Commission at a later date. A meeting agenda will be drafted and distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the steps that will be taken to advertise these sessions to the business community.

6. DISCUSSION RE: SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION VEG OUT PROGRAM

The Economic Development Commission was provided information regarding the Sustainability Commission's efforts to partner with local restaurants to promote its Veg Out Wednesday menu specials. This initiative promotes reduced consumption of more vegetable-based meals. Ms. Holt highlighted the Chamber's partnership with the Sustainability Commission to promote this effort.

7. OTHER BUSINESS – None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

9. NEXT MEETING – The next meeting was confirmed for June 11, 2021

10. ADJOURNMENT – A MOTION was made by Mr. Brown and SECONDED by Mr. Graham to adjourn the Economic Development Commission meeting at 8:18 a.m. MOTION PASSED by voice vote.