

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2021**

A meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Friday, June 11, 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, Robert Graham, Timothy Brangle, Carr Preston, Liz Holt

Absent: Donna Slepicka, Cuyler Brown

Also Present: Village Trustees Robert O'Connell, Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Katie Lowes, Susan Altier

All members participated electronically.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES -

- a. A MOTION was made by Mr. Preston and SECONDED by Mr. Brangle to approve the May 14, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Commission. MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote.
- b. A MOTION was made by Mr. Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Brangle to approve the May 21, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Commission. MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote.

4. UPDATE ON VARIOUS PROJECTS

Acting Village Administrator Scheiner stated that the Expression of Interest had been released for a potential development opportunity at Village-owned and potentially neighboring properties in the Madison Street corridor. In addition to sending the Expression of Interest to potential developers and posting a sign on the property, a copy has been placed online at www.vrf.us/madison. She continued that the Village has been working with Speaker Welch's office to obtain funds that were set aside for demolition under HB64 and is now working to get the Governor's Office to release the funding.

Chairman Neubecker stated that he and other members of the Economic Development Commission and Village Board of Trustees toured The Sheridan at 800 Harlem Avenue in

May. They complimented the quality of the development and said the operators are working to be good neighbors.

Chairman Neubecker provided a brief update on the efforts that had been underway to identify a potential restaurant tenant for the potential Lake and Park redevelopment project. Acting Village Administrator stated that the developer is in the process of trying to acquire the Strand property. In response to a question from Member Graham, Chairman Neubecker and Acting Village Administrator Scheiner stated that a liquor license may be permissible at the site within state regulations.

Acting Village Administrator recapped the information that was presented to the Village Board of Trustees by Sedgwick properties at the April and May Village Board meetings. She said the developer anticipates that excavation work will resume in the coming weeks.

5. DISCUSSION RE: BUSINESS RETENTION/ATTRACTION STRATEGIES

Acting Village Administrator Scheiner recapped that the Village expects to receive \$1.34 million under the American Rescue Plan and would like to use a portion of the funds to support the business community. To help identify need, a series of Business Forums have been conducted with the business community. Acting Village Administrator Scheiner said that Liz Holt from and the Chamber of Commerce have been an excellent partner in coordinating the forums and helped identify a facilitator, Ramiro Artista from the Dominican University Brennan School of Business. She said they are in week two of three and have conducted five of the six forums thus far. She said the forums are recorded and a report will be made available to the Economic Development Commission in July.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion regarding the potential sale of the Dominican Priory property. Trustee O'Connell stated that he informed the Village Board of Trustees that the property was for sale but the Board had not discussed the matter. The property is zoned PRI (public, recreational, institutional) and the Village President stated in an article in the Wednesday Journal that the Village would like to preserve green space, has no plans to rezone the property, and would like the use to remain aligned with current zoning.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Economic Development Commission is scheduled on July 9, 2021. There will be no August meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT – A MOTION was made by Mr. Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Brangle to adjourn the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 7:59 a.m. Motion passed by unanimous vote.