



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89153263474>

Meeting ID: 891 5326 3474

Public comments and any responses will be shared with the Commission. You may submit your public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: Jessica Spencer at jspencer@vrf.us.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2025
4. Continued Discussion Regarding Business Community Retention/Support Strategies and Communication
5. General Development Updates
6. Other Business
7. Executive Session
8. Adjournment

ADA Compliance: Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the Village at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting in person at Village Hall by telephone at 708.366.8500 or by email: mwalsh@vrf.us. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation.

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

August 13, 2025

A special meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, August 13, 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

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Meeting started by calling roll. Upon roll call, the following people were:

Present: Chairman Cuyler Brown and Commissioners Carr Preston (6:06), Scott Elza, Raj Chiplunkar, Tim Brangle and Elizabeth Muhr

Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer and Executive Director Marion-Burton of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce (via Zoom)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 7, 2025 AND JULY 9, 2025

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brangle and seconded by Commissioner Chiplunkar to approve the minutes from May 7, 2025 and July 9, 2025. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

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

Executive Director Marion-Burton provided an update regarding the Business Networking event that is in the works for September 17th at Byline Bank. He also noted that there will be more updates coming from the Chamber in the coming weeks. Chairman Brown and Commissioners Elza and Muhr indicated that they would like to attend. Chairman Brown noted his appreciation for the activities for the River Forest businesses in recent months.

Chairman Brown invited the commissioners to introduce themselves for the sake of the new members.

Assistant Administrator Spencer advised on the Open Meetings Act guidelines, generally.

5. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Assistant Administrator Spencer noted that JLL has requested additional information from interested developers on the Madison Street property. The expectation is that the details will be submitted shortly and the next steps will be made available in the coming weeks. Chairman Brown asked what role the EDC might have in the process of the property development. He reiterated the Commission's position on finding the right development for the Village, considering the character of the community.

Regarding Lake and Lathrop, Assistant Administrator Spencer advised that there is a court date on September 12. No further updates regarding the foreclosure proceedings are available at this time. The Receiver has ordered new screening for the fences that will be installed soon.

First Watch has been issued their Certificate of Occupancy and are ready to open. The Grand Opening date has not been provided to staff yet, but its anticipated to be around Labor Day.

Assistant Administrator Spencer updated the group that one business is in the final stages of the Façade Grant program.

She also reminded the commissioners of the North Avenue resurfacing project. Chairman Brown would like to talk about the Village's relationship with Elmwood Park and how they have developed North Ave business district.

Commissioner Brangle asked what is the Village doing to support the businesses in the area, specifically North Avenue, to help use these vacant spaces Chairman Brown offered to identify a list of vacant properties and work to find the property owners.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Preston and seconded by Commissioner Brangle to adjourn the meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Spencer, Assistant Village Administrator

Date: _____