

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
September 30, 2021**

A meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Monday, September 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Brown, Preston, Lowes, Brangle, Graham, Chiplunkar (arrived 5:02 a.m.)

Absent: Wahlfeldt, Holt

Also Present: Village Trustee Robert O'Connell, Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Village President Catherine Adduci

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Brangle and SECONDED by Graham to approve the September 10, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Commission. MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote.

**4. DEVELOPMENT UPDATES AND DISCUSSION REGARDING NEXT STEPS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACTION**

Lake and Park: Acting Village Administrator Scheiner reviewed the history, attempts at lot assembly through voluntary acquisition, and the status of the Village's efforts to develop a commercial project including retail, restaurant, and medical offices at the corner of Lake and Park. The Commission discussed the challenge of assembling contiguous parcels to create a meaningful development site, including the lack of interest from the property owner to sell the commercial building at 7777 Lake Street. The Commission suggested that the Village engage the existing developer to gauge continued interest and explore a parking lot swap with the owner of 7777 Lake Street. The Commissioners agreed that this was the preferred first course of action. If necessary, a broker could be engaged as a next step to market this development opportunity on the Village's behalf.

Lake and Lathrop: Acting Village Administrator Scheiner reviewed the status of this project as noted in a report that was included in the Economic Development Commission meeting packet and the update provided to the Village Board of Trustees.

Madison Street: Chairman Brown reported that there was a meeting with a developer for the Village-owned property in the Madison Street corridor. The developer has presented the Village with a letter of intent, discussion is underway regarding a potential mixed-use project on Village-owned property. The Village is determining the sale price of the property. Commissioner Graham stated his support for developing the entire block and not just the Village-owned property.

The Commission discussed the need to focus on and bolster entry-ways to the Village.

North Avenue TIF District: Acting Village Administrator Scheiner stated that the Village continues to monitor the area but no properties have been acquired in this corridor nor has the Village received any development proposals. She summarized the report that was included in the Economic Development Commission's packet. There was a brief discussion regarding the need for the Village and Commission to take a more proactive approach to development within this corridor, including the creation of a subcommittee regarding the potential engagement of a broker.

Commissioners also discussed the need for a workshop to better understand the corridors, comprehensive plan, and potential development sites.

Lake and Harlem: Acting Village Administrator Scheiner stated that discussions regarding the potential redevelopment of Whole Foods are on hold for the moment.

#### **5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION RE: BUSINESS RETENTION/ATTRACTION STRATEGIES**

No action taken.

#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

No action taken.

#### **7. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Economic Development Commission next meeting date will be October 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

#### **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was held.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made and SECONDED to adjourn the September 30, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 6:05 p.m. On voice vote, motion passed.