

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2018**

A meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Friday, January 19, 2018, at 7:30 a.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Robert O'Connell, Cuyler Brown, Collete English Dixon, Nena Maas, Lee Neubecker, Bob Graham, Timothy Brangle

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Administrator Eric Palm, OPRF Chamber Executive Director Cathy Yen

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – MOTION made by Ms. Maas to approve the meeting minutes from December 8, 2017 as presented. Seconded by Ms. English Dixon. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. EXISTING PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS – Mr. Palm provided the EDC with various updates on existing projects and possible developments in River Forest. These topics included Lake and Lathrop, Chicago & Harlem senior independent/assisted living facility, Madison Street TIF & LCFS Acquisition, North Avenue TIF progress, and Lake and Park.

EDC members asked if there were any immediate uses of the LCFS property. Mr. Palm indicated that there were none at this time and that it was likely LCFS would extend their lease into mid-2018.

There was a question whether or not any contact had been made with the development groups that had formed regarding North Avenue. There had not been and Mr. Palm indicated that he would work with Ms. Yen to establish contact.

There was suggestion made by Mr. Brangle that any RDA with the Chicago and Harlem developers memorialize the retail uses on that site.

5. BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – Mr. O'Connell provided an overview of his business roundtable concept and asked for feedback from the EDC. There was a good discussion amongst the members. Some of the issues raised for discussion included:

- What goals are we trying to achieve?
- Who is our target audience? Existing businesses? New businesses?
- Do we include business on our borders but not in River Forest?
- What type of input do we want to get from the business community? What is working? What is not?
- How does marketing to other communities play into these discussions?
- Is this a two-step process? Speaking with existing businesses and then with that information, marketing to new ones?
- Ms. Yen mentioned there needs to be a lure for business owners to leave their places of work and come to the Village to provide feedback.

The Commission will continue to discuss and refine this idea at future meetings.

6. OTHER BUSINESS – The next meeting will be March 9, 2018.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Graham made a MOTION to adjourn the Economic Development Commission meeting at 8:16 a.m.
Seconded by Ms. Maas.

MOTION PASSED by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m.