

**VILLAGE OF RICHMOND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINTES– April 13, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Village of Richmond Economic Development Committee was held at 7:30 p.m., April 13, 2006, at the Village of Richmond, 5600 Hunter Drive, Richmond, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36PM.

At Roll Call the following members were present: Barb Gallegos (Richmond Garden Club), Bryce Klontz (McHenry Savings), Lauri Olson (President), Cindy Walleck (Trustee), Ginene Nagel (Fox and Finch).

Bryce Klontz was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

Motion 1: Walleck Motion 2: Gallegos

Voice Vote

Aye: All Neigh: 0

Minutes from the March 8th regular session, March 8 closed session and March 15th special meeting were read and approved:

Motion 1: Gallegos Motion 2: Walleck

Voice Vote

Aye: All Neigh: 0

During Announcements/Correspondence Walleck announced that a joint meeting was planned for April 27 with the Architectural Committee for the purpose of discussing sign issues with the merchants.

During Additions and/or Deletions Chairman Klontz moved Public Comment as new item number 6 for the agenda.

Chairman Klontz also asked to postpone Kit Carstens discussion of marketing Richmond until he arrived at the meeting.

Charlotte Hollenbach discussed the process of distributing the Village brochures to various state visitor centers. The brochure must be sent to the state for approval before distribution can be made. Discussion continued to include the proper number of brochures needed for distribution in fiscal year 2007.

Review of the draft marketing packet was made. Nagel recommended that more variety of pictures be added throughout. Gallegos recommended that Rockford Airport be included in the Transportation section. It was noted that once complete the marketing packets would be a tool used for retention visits by the EDC and that packets would be housed at Village Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, and in the EDC files for use by the Commissioners. The packet and the brochures will likely be reviewed every 6 months for necessary updating.

Klontz introduced discussion of the downtown Redevelopment Plan Outline. He asked that the Commissioners review the document and return comment to him for updates. Once the draft is complete, it will be determined by the EDC how the redevelopment plan can be implemented in terms of funding. Kit Carstens was next to speak on marketing Richmond. Kit discussed the unique qualities that McHenry County, and in turn Richmond, has as a destination spot; Chicago traffic, strong average daily traffic rates, opportunity for geo-tourism (using natural resources to promote village), etc. Carstens mentioned that a good mix of art, theatre, cuisine, and items like ballooning would bring in tourists to the Village. The county is already developing tourism packages and should Richmond include a boutique hotel and implement some of the geo-tourism ideas it could go to cultural tourism packages. Carstens winery would add to the cultural package in and of itself along with the intended artistic features planned in the development. Because Richmond is still "an open

slate" it has the opportunity to engage the cultural tourism program. Carstens recommends moving forward with a sign consultant who can literally change the image of Richmond "over night" by improving gateway signage, directional signage, etc. Carstens also recommended trending toward the empty nesters. Klontz asked about the agri-tourism trail down route 173. Kit mentioned that Bonnie Heimbach of the Northern Illinois Tourism Development Office has worked on a winery trail package and is planning on calling 173 an agri-tourism corridor. Klontz said that he contacted Bonnie about available grant money. He noted that Richmond is a prime location for grant funding by the State and that signage programs are available that will fund up to 50% of the cost of sign development.

The Budget Report was presented by Gallegos and approved by voice vote:

Motion One: Walleck Motion Two: Gallegos

Voice Vote

Aye: All Neigh: 0

During Prospects/Retention Visits Klontz recognized the owners of the incoming Olive Black Martini Bar. A short discussion was held on the new business.

The Memorial Hall Committee report was given by Walleck. An update on the results of the Centennial Ball was given. It was also reported that new locks were installed on the building to make way for the Hall of History and to better secure theatre equipment in the building.

Special Events report was presented by Klontz. Strawberry Fest and Cruise Nights was discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:18PM:

Motion One: Gallegos Motion Two: Nagel

Voice Vote:

Aye: All Neigh: 0