

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
MAY 11, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Village of Richmond Economic Development Committee was held at 7:30 p.m., May 11, 2006, at the Village of Richmond, 5600 Hunter Drive, Richmond, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37PM.

At Roll Call the following members were present: Charlotte Hollenbach, Lars Anderson, Genine Nagel, Bryce Klontz, Cindy Walleck, Barb Gallegos.

Bryce Klontz was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

Motion 1: Walleck Motion 2: Gallegos

Voice Vote

Aye: All Neigh: 0

Minutes from the April 13 regular session meeting were read and approved:

Motion 1: Gallegos Motion 2: Anderson

Voice Vote

Aye: All Neigh: 0

During Announcements/Correspondence Walleck announced that the Village had received an application from Pam Althoff for the Governor's Home Town Award. Application for the designation will be made by the EDC.

There were no Additions and/or Deletions for the agenda.

Chairman Klontz also asked to postpone discussion of directional signage until a consultant could be agreed upon. All agreed.

The EDC newsletter for May was presented by Walleck. The deadline for print was set for May 15th. Klontz will create and enter a Strawberry Fest flier with the newsletter.

Chairman Klontz opened the discussion of the grant consultant services. Walleck presented Presentation Plus quote for services rendered. EDC is also trying to get Mary Margaret Mohl, a grant consultant, to attend a meeting to discuss her talents and services relating to grant writing for the Village.

Chairman Klontz introduced review of draft Marketing Packet. Short discussion was made and then Klontz asked for a motion to recommend approval of the Packet to the board:

Motion One: Nagel

Motion Two: Hollenbach

On Roll Call Vote:

Charlotte Hollenbach: Yes

Lars Anderson: Yes

Genine Nagel: Yes

Bryce Klontz: Yes

Cindy Walleck: Yes

Barb Gallegos: Yes

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Klontz opened discussion of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan Outline. He indicated that 3 commissioners responded to content. He also recommended that specific time be set aside in a special meeting solely for discussion of the Outline.

Hollenbach asked what “enlarging the business district meant in the Outline. Klontz indicated that enlargement meant finding land capable and suitable for more store fronts and for increased pedestrian traffic. Adding buildings to empty lots in the district area and looking for proactive developers who would assist in the enlargement was discussed. Discussed moved to new building type and design and complimenting the existing buildings/theme of the downtown area.

A question about item 12 on the Solutions section of the Redevelopment Plan Outline and regarding traffic patterns was made. Klontz explained that the traffic on 12 should be seen as a good thing and looking for ways to draw that traffic into the business district will be paramount to the redevelopment and the revitalization of the downtown business area. Anderson asked if a traffic study has been or could be done on Route 12 to determine where the traffic is going to or coming from. Lars believes that today’s traffic is different than traffic of the 70’s. Traffic used to be transient and held more tourists on 12. Today, we see more resident commuters getting to and from work on 12 so people aren’t coming in to the business district to shop. Discussion of traffic patterns continued. Klontz recommended that EDC look into a postage study of local residents so that it can be determined where they are going to or coming from. This information will be good for determining marketing strategies for the business district.

Discussion moved to local advertising efforts. Anderson indicated that today Richmond residents aren’t even aware that some of our shops exist. It was agreed that EDC would conduct a review of local ad opportunities at a later meeting date.

May 25th was decided as the special meeting date for the continued discussion and organization of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan Outline.

The Village Brochure was next on the agenda. Walleck introduced the need to review and update the brochure. Addition of new businesses was discussed. Organization and change of content of the brochure was also made. Anderson suggested that insertions be allowed into the brochure at the cost of the businesses willing to participate. Hollenbach recommended that a directional map be added to the municipal parking lot message board for visitor guidance to shops. It was decided that Walleck and Gallegos will go forward with Desktop Publishing on the updates for the brochure.

Brochure discussion moved into business license fees and the need to increase those fees. Klontz submitted that a business plan must be compiled to justify increases.

Public comment was taken.

Nagel excused herself from the meeting at 9:38PM.

The EDC Budget Report was given by Gallegos. The Report was approved by motion and vote:

Motion One: Gallegos Motion Two: Walleck

Voice Vote:

Aye: All Neigh: 0

Motion to approved EDC Budget Report passed.

Under Prospect/Retention Visits, Klontz submitted that the Hunter Country Club is recognized as a vital part of economic development. He recommended that Kris Khayat, owner of the Country Club property attend an EDC meeting to discuss his development.

Walleck made the Memorial Hall Committee Report. It was reported that the formation of the Committee was on the Village Board agenda for the May 18th meeting. The Friends of Memorial Hall were moving forward with bid requests for a new roof on Memorial Hall after having received permission from the National Registry of Historic Places in Illinois to place an architectural shingled roof on the building. An application for new front doors will be made to the Registry soon as well.

Walleck then made the Bike Path Report. All equipment to establish the bicycle rest area at Broadway was purchased. The dedication of the rest area is set for Sunday, June 25th at 9:00AM. The McHenry County Bike Club, donors to the establishment of the rest area, will be hosting a ride on the 25th in honor of the dedication.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32PM:

Motion One: Gallegos Motion Two: Walleck

Voice Vote:

Aye: All Neigh: 0