



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
ECONOMIC STRATEGY COMMISSION (ESC)  
VILLAGE HALL, TERRACE ROOM**

**July 26, 2023**

**ESC Members Present:** James Karagianis, Matt Cassidy, Adam Firsel, Patrick Keefe, Katie McKillip-Von Feldt and Michael Nortman,

**ESC Members Absent:** Marci Carl and Rob Weil

**ESC Staff Present:** Jonathan Mendel – Director Development & Planning Services

**Public Present:** Maryann Chambers

**Call to Order & Introductions:**

Chairperson Marci Carl was not present, so the Commission approved Commissioner Karagianis as acting chair for the meeting. Acting Chair Karagianis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Review of Minutes:**

On a motion made by Commissioner Keefe and seconded by Member Cassidy, the April 26, 2023 minutes were approved as presented.

**Public Comment-Hear from the Audience:** None

New Commissioner Introduction: Adam Firsel was appointed recently and this is his first meeting. Commissioner Firsel gave a short biography about himself (personally and professionally) and his desire to be part of the ESC.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Mendel reminded the ESC that their April 26, 2023 letter was transmitted to the Village Board in June 2023. Several Commissioners asked if has been feedback and Mr. Mendel indicated that there has been any, but staff will inquire in the near future in order to keep this work proceeding.

Mr. Mendel then moved on to the staff memo regarding the ESC's April 26, 2023 discussion on downtown events and activities programming and what the ESC's role could be within those efforts. Mr. Mendel explained that there are already entities within the Village Administration and throughout the general community (i.e., Park District, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, etc.).

Commissioner Keefe felt the ESC should not totally lose focus on downtown events and programming to support and draw businesses. Commissioner Karagianis generally agreed and mentioned several local private nonprofits that may be part of such efforts, such as Rotary.

Commissioner Nortman suggested another possibility of an 'underwriting' similar program that can be used to assist the development of specific businesses such as a restaurant draw. He cited a recent example in Glenview.

There was further discussion by the ESC regarding their opinions about the relative value of additional and varied events' programming.

Commissioner Karagianis suggested the ESC invite Trustee Collison to one of their meetings to discuss this subject further. Several of the other Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Mendel suggested that the ESC first needs to solidify it's reason for inviting Trustee Collison and that the August 2023 meeting would be time to do it. Once that occurs, then the invitation can occur.

### **Zoning Code Update discussion**

Mr. Mendel outlined the packet information regarding the Zoning Code Update process the Village is currently undertaking. The packet information generally included the preference survey that had been presented to the general public late May 2023 and the Plan Commission in early June 2023.

The ESC members asked whether staff wanted a full analysis of this at the meeting or if the desire is for the ESC members to provide their input separate. Mr. Mendel stated that the ESC could discuss the generalities this evening but also send Mr. Mendel your thoughts and input separately between about a week before the next ESC meeting scheduled for August 23, 2023. At the August meeting, staff and the ESC could solidify their input and suggestions to staff and the consultant team.

There was substantive discussion regarding the Village's development processes and requirements. Commissioner Nortman stated he feels many of the processes are overly burdensome. Commissioner Karagianis stated that the mandating of sustainable building and site requirements must be done carefully. Commissioner Cassidy suggested sustainable building and site improvements should be encouraged as flexible and beneficial versus.

Commissioner Keefe discussed the suitability of the Affordable Housing regulations and Mr. Mendel stated those regulations are outside the Zoning Code and not part of this update process.

Commissioner Firsel had concerns about the seeming constant accretion of mandated processes and regulations that add detrimentally to complexity, transparency and predictability for people doing development in the Village.

### **New Business:**

None

### **General Questions:**

Commissioners McKillip-Von Feldt and Cassidy asked about the status of the Green Acres property. Mr. Mendel stated the ownership is seeking other buyers, but as of yet there is no formal conceptual development plan for the property.

The ESC directed staff to bring the following to the August meeting:

- A draft plan and framework for why and when to invite Trustee Collison to a future ESC meeting to discuss downtown events programming
- A draft ESC response to the Zoning Code update consultant team

The next ESC meeting will take place on August 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Terrace Room.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the Economic Strategy Commission meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Jonathan Mendel

Director of Development & Planning Services