



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
ECONOMIC STRATEGY COMMISSION (ESC)  
VILLAGE HALL, TERRACE ROOM  
AUGUST 23, 2023**

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

**ESC Members Absent:** Marci Carl

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

**Public Present:** None

**Call to Order & Introductions:**

Director Mendel stated that Chairperson Marci Carl would be absent and a Chair Pro tem was needed. A motion was made by Member Karagianis and seconded by Member Cassidy to appoint Member Norton Chair Pro tem. The motion passed by voice vote. Chairman Norton opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**Review of Minutes:**

On a motion made by Member Karagianis and seconded by Member Cassidy, the July 26, 2023 minutes were approved as presented.

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

**Old Business:**

a) The ESC directed staff to provide the following for discussion and formatting:

- Draft plan and framework for why and when to invite Village Board Trustees to a future ESC meeting to discuss downtown events programming

Director Mendel talked about the Commission wanting to extend an invitation for a Village Trustee to attend a future ESC meeting and discuss special events. Director Mendel will put a letter together and pass it on. The Board will designate an individual. Director Mendel stated that this may not happen in the near future as the Board is busy with the upcoming meetings regarding Northbrook Court.

Director Mendel listed three categories that will be included in his letter. They included, 1) Downtown events programming; 2) Downtown zoning and development; 3) Downtown public/private partnership(s). Bullet points were discussed for each category.

Membership wants to incentivize public and private partnerships, more development in the downtown and focus on acquiring the Meadow Shopping Plaza. They believe the Village should

purchase the property, control it, rezone it and develop it. Membership believes it is in the Village's best interest to be proactive. It is important to educate the public and inform residents what are neighbors are embarking upon. It is also important to get out in front of any pushback. Member Norton suggests that the Board incentivize through a TIF.

Member Norton would like the Economic Strategy Commission to be a result-oriented commission. He suggests that ESC members visit with any potential retailer that wants to come to Northbrook. ESC could become the middleman that helps facilitate the deal.

Director Mendel reaffirmed that downtown event planning is a function coming out of the Village. The Commission would like to see more interfacing between the Village and the Park District due to the location of the Village Green. Director Mendel offered to be the liaison. Member Firsell and Member Keefe feel there is a need to hire an independent event planner. Director Mendel offered to feel out the Board on their preferences. He suggested an RFP for a consultant to develop a strategic economic development plan for the downtown.

- Draft ESC response to the Zoning Code update consultant team

Director Mendel will include the bullet points from the July meeting and include those in a memo regarding the Zoning Code update. The regulations are easy to address. Two important factors are time and process. Process seems to be the biggest discussion item for the Zoning Code Review. A discussion took place regarding a recent process modification involving the Board and the Plan Commission. Membership does not want the Village to be seen as a difficult partner. Membership wants established businesses within the Village to have simple license renewals if nothing has changed from year to year.

A discussion took place regarding mixed uses for Northbrook Court and the upcoming public meeting on August 29, 2023.

### **New Business**

There is an interested party in the Green Acres property but no specifics to report at this time.

The next ESC meeting will take place on September 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Terrace Room.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Member Weil and seconded by Member Keefe to adjourn the Economic Strategy Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Sue Anetsberger