

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
September 2, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gary Grasso called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Village Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Gary Grasso, Trustee Tony Schiappa, Mark Stangle, Ramzi Hassan, Paul Stettin, Sam Odeh, Kirsten Jepsen, Leslie Bowman, Debbie Hamilton, and Bhagwan Sharma (arrived at 5:10 pm.)

Absent: Michael Simmons

Also Present: Village Administrator Doug Pollock, Assistant Village Administrator Evan Walter, Communications & Public Relations Coordinator Janet Kowal, Management Analyst Andres Beltran, Edwards Realty Marketing Director Taylor Blagrove, Patti's Sunrise Café owner John Manderscheid, Kirsten's Bakery co-owner Paul Jepsen, Capri Ristorante owner Filippo "Gigi" Rovito, Viewpoint Enclosures President Jeffrey Pavlatos, Viewpoint Business Development Manager Greg Flynn

PLEDGE

Mayor Grasso led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Hamilton to approve the Minutes from the August 14, 2020 meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Ms. Jepsen and approved by a vote of 9 - 0.

Mayor Grasso, citing the time restriction for several members of the public, asked to move item five on the agenda, Consideration of All-Season Enclosures at Village Restaurants. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stangle. The **MOTION** was seconded by Ms. Jepsen and approved by a vote of 9 - 0.

CONSIDERATION OF ALL SEASON ENCLOSURES AT VILLAGE RESTAURANTS

Mr. Walter stated that the tent program for outdoor dining has been a great success. Staff was directed to look into options for outdoor dining in winter, and in the future in general. One option that was discovered was Viewpoint Retractable Enclosure Systems, a local company that makes retractable outdoor enclosures that can be fitted onto existing properties. Staff asked them to present on the topic and their initial concepts for three restaurants in the Village. However, staff wanted to state this topic was on if the Committee wanted to incentivize these types of projects in the future, with the three presented being a pilot program.

Jeff Pavlatos, President of Viewpoint, stated his company specializes in retractable enclosures with operable skylights and rolling wall systems. The enclosures are made of clear polycarbonate and have the option of different insulation levels to maintain temperature. Systems can be built on the ground or on a brick seating wall for added aesthetics. Enclosures have options to open at every panel, the ceiling, or operate independently. They have installed several systems, with the two most recent in the Chicagoland area being at La Fiesta at 3333 W 111th Street in Chicago and Roots at 744 South Dearborn Street.

John Manderscheid of Patti's Sunrise Café stated that these systems could be a benefit post-COVID. Customer patterns may still favor outdoor-style seating environments compared to indoor. Additionally, it will help maximize his potential for seating. Filippo "Gigi" Rovito of Capri stated that the tents are big draws for his business, and an enclosure like this would help Burr Ridge continue to draw people downtown. Paul Jepsen of Kirsten's Bakery said that they are looking further in the future as a lot of their service is not done by seating in store but that it could still be helpful.

Mr. Hassan stated that these would be a good long-term investment in the downtown, not just next year for these businesses. Because of that, these would work perfectly as a project for the Business Development District as part of an incentive program. It would help show the Village is a partner in making the downtown better. He did agree that the return on investment had to make sense for businesses and property owners. Finally, he said that there has been talk of having the tent program again next year; perhaps those funds could be dedicated to incentivize instead.

Mayor Grasso stated that he thinks they are a great idea to distinguish Burr Ridge and increase revenue for those business owners. However, he would like to see more details on possible funding mechanisms and partnerships. Finally, since the enclosures would not be ready this winter, he directed staff to look at possible ways to have outdoor dining in the winter.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONSULTANT RFP

Mr. Walter stated that at the recommendation of the Village Attorney that a consultant should be used to create the Business Development District. This was due to liability reasons instead of any shortcomings in staff analysis. As such, staff created a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued to find a qualified consultant. If approved by the EDC, it would go to the Village Board for approval and distribution at the September 14th Board meeting. The RFPs would be due by September 30th to Mr. Walter and would come to the October 7th EDC meeting for review and recommendation, with approval and award by the Board on October 12th.

Mayor Grasso asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Schiappa; the **MOTION** was seconded by Mr. Sharma. Approved by a vote of 8-0.

CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Beltran stated staff was asked to give information on Downtown Business Associations. He stated that they can be a key development tool for downtowns. He noted that there are three types: informal downtown groups, municipal led groups, and non-profit partnerships. He continued that while Downtown Business Associations are often started as informal groups or municipal led, the most successful are non-profits that leverage public and private funds as well as undertake community-building activities in the downtown.

Ms. Bowman thanked staff for the work. However, she stated that she was thinking of more an informal group on businesses in the downtown that could hold events and network. Mr. Stangle also asked why it would be focused solely on the downtown. Mr. Beltran stated that the defined geography focuses the goals. The Committee agreed that bringing Village businesses together irrespective of their location would be a good idea.

Mayor Grasso asked if the Committee supported an informal Burr Ridge Business Association. The Committee agreed. No action was taken.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No other considerations were brought forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stangle made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting to October 7, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., **SECONDED** by Trustee Schiappa. **APPROVED 9-0**. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andres Beltran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andres" and last name "Beltran" clearly distinguishable.

Andrez Beltran
Management Analyst