

MINUTES

Village of Westmont
Regular Meeting
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 9:00 A.M.

Westmont Village Hall Employee Break Room
31 West Quincy Street, Westmont, IL

1. Call to Order

Chairman, Bob Scott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Bob Scott, Chairman - Present
Susann Senicka, Trustee/Co-Chair - Absent
Harold Barry III, Trustee Elect - Present
Nancy Martens, Citizen Representative - Present
Virginia Szymiski, Village Clerk - Present
Ron Searl, Village Manager - Absent
Corinne Beller, Citizen Representative - Present
Catherine Berning, School Representative - Absent
Kevin Carey, School Representative - Present
Frank Brady, Business/Resident Representative - Present
Larry Forssberg, Chamber Executive Director - Present
Craig Grember, Citizen Representative - Absent
Bill Kalafut, Business/Resident Representative - Present
Steve May, Public Works Director - Present
Shannon Malik, Community Development Director - Present
Gregg Pill, Business/Resident Representative - Present
Bob Fleck, Landscape Architect - Absent
Thomas Mulhearn, Police Chief - Absent
Dave Weiss, Acting Fire Chief - Present
Jill Ziegler, Village Planner - Present
Karen Remkus, Administrative Assistant - Absent

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Minutes

The Minutes from the April 3, 2013 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes and it was approved.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

A. 4 West Burlington Avenue - Moe Rasheed from Neighborhood Foods introduced himself. His family started its business 27 years ago, and have had a couple of business types over the years, including clothing and bakery. The family has an existing business on Laramie that is comparable to a 7/11, and they opened a 2nd, smaller store in Stickney this week at 3904 Gunderson. Moe is the oldest in the family, and is a UIC grad with an accounting major. He is a job control chemist with job flexibility, and does the accounting for his family's business.

Mo would like to sell convenience store food and beverage items, cell phone/electronics accessories for commuters, and would like to apply for a tobacco license. Hours at first would likely be 5 am to 8 pm, then he would play it by ear. He and his father have noticed that it starts getting more quiet around 3 pm. The business would likely have one full-time staff person and two or three part-time staff.

The store would likely sell tobacco and accessories, if a tobacco license were to be approved. His other location only sells about a pack a day because it is in Cook County and the cost is \$12.50/pack. He would sell loose tobacco and rolling papers, but no hookahs or other paraphernalia. He would also sell Cricket type pre-paid cell phones, and accessories such as headphones and back-up chargers. His average sale is usually \$10. He would also sell coffee/donuts/orange juice/chocolate milk and similar items.

He would consider becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Scott asked if tobacco was a necessity, and he said it wasn't, partially because the employee would need to be 18 to run the store. He would not be requesting a liquor license. He might sell pre-packaged food from others, but would not make food on site. Typical sales are 50% food and 50% retail.

The location has one parking space designated for employees, and staff would further investigate the parking situation.

Chairman Scott let the applicant know staff would get back with him with a recommendation.

There was a motion to recommend Neighborhood Foods for approval and it passed.

B. There was discussion regarding having upcoming EDC meetings off-site at different locations in the community, where businesses could introduce themselves and give a tour of their facility. This was positively received. Some of the possibilities were College of DuPage, Oakbrook Racquet and Fitness Club, Hotels, McCrone, auto dealers,

Julian Electric, Chicago Prostate, Chase, Ty, some at the Village Hall, Westmont Yard, and recent openings.

C. Discuss inviting COD to participate in EDC

Staff asked for consensus on whether the EDC members would like to extend an invitation to a rep from College of DuPage to participate similar to what was done for the college located in Romeoville. The members agreed that this would be a good idea. Staff will reach out to COD for appropriate contact.

D. Review promotional materials.

Staff presented drafts of new marketing materials that have been prepared to help promote the Village of Westmont. Updated demographics and photographs/info on some of our key developments are showcased along with a QR code linked to the Village's Economic Development website. These materials will be used for the first time at the upcoming ICSC conference.

7. Updates

Jimmy's Island Grill has opened at 800 E. Ogden.

Cake in a Box has inquired about the possibility of re-opening in their former location on E. Burlington.

La Petite Sweet has opened at their new location of 15 S. Cass Avenue.

Sweet & Savory is applying for a liquor license for the storefront located at 31 N. Cass (former site of La Petite Sweet).

8. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.