

Economic Development Meeting Minutes
Monday July 14, 2014

1. Meeting called to order at 7:42 a.m. by Chairperson Pastor Joe Mills.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call - Darlene Barber (not present), Lori-Jo Fergle, **Village Chamber of Commerce Liaison** Bruce Horek, Kandice Jacobs, Pastor Joe Mills, Allison Muzal, **Village Representatives Trustee** Frank Perry, **Director Community Development** Melissa Headley

4. Opening Public Participation and Comments- None initially, then later in the meeting, John Macdonald a resident of the 700 block on Suffolk wanted to know how Westchester presents themselves in marketing with the recent flooding issues. The Suffolk/Gladstone area was discussed, recent foreclosures, etc.

5. Active Agenda

A. Approval of the following minutes:

- Minutes of June 23rd EDC Meeting deferred for the meeting of July 28th, 2014

6. Updates from Village Management: Melissa Headley's report given, which included present building projects moving along. Gardner Road, Superior One (Electrical contractor)

7. Updates from Village Chamber of Commerce: Bruce Horek report given of nothing new to report. Noted the Pedestrian Passway on Cermak/Mannheim already exists.

8. Old Business (Discussion Only)

A. FAÇADE grant: CHRISTOS applied. HANCOCK approved.

B. Follow-up on Development Programs from Business Summit:

- Business Transportation Issues in Westchester: Discussions held. Need to access the website for PACE. Followup on the 31st St. Businesses and their needs for a bus stop.

- Walkways/Safe pedestrian avenues for shopping: Discussions held. Addison Creek, nothing there?

- Permitting process – discussions held

C. Other ideas emerging from Summit: EDC Committee will prepare ideas for existing businesses: TOPICS? TIME FRAME? FORMAT? LOCATION?

- Program topic ideas: Starting a business: On line, to teach it you can do it online, test & get certified. Triton also has a program. Businesses must be willing to help as an education tool for the business community, not self promoting.
- Education related topics: Search engines, finance, insurance, soft skills, hiring, making decisions, small business blueprint. How, where and what are most important. Who is to be included? Surrounding communities?

D. Signage RFP updates-esp. Historical Marker discussion Franzosenbusch
Historical Society has been informed about the signage initiative. They cannot update house internally until the right of way has been addressed and roads. What is the function of the signage? To direct people to the site or the importance of the site? Suggestion make to invite Larry Godson to come to an EDC meeting.

- 9. New Business:** It was suggested to invite the new public works director to advise :
- a) State of Village/Public works plan for the next 12 months
 - B) projects
 - c) scope of department

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Horek, second by Kandice Jacobs. Meeting adjourned 8:32 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori-Jo Fergle