

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AND VILLAGE BOARD
May 17, 2023**

The meeting of the Libertyville Economic Development Commission and Village Board was called to order at 7:30 a.m. at the Libertyville Village Hall Board Room, 118 West Cook Avenue, Libertyville, Illinois.

Members Present: Commissioners Brian Grano, Andrew Herrmann, Thomas Kreuser, Dan Marks, and Steve Martin.

Members Absent: Chairman John Cortesi; Commissioners Dmitry Dukhan Edward Werdell.

Board members present: Mayor Donna Johnson; Trustees Adams and Connell.

Staff Present: John Spoden, Community Development Director; Heather Rowe, Economic Development Manager; and Erin Baynes, Management Analyst.

Others Present: Jennifer Johnson of Main Street Libertyville.

The Commission nominated Commissioner Kreuser to serve as Chairman Pro Tem for the meeting. [Marks-motion/Grano-second]

Minutes: The minutes of the March and April 2023 meetings were approved. [Martin-motion/Marks-second]

Belle Aire Creations

Chairman Kreuser noted that it's good to see Libertyville residents locate and expand their businesses within the community. Commissioner Martin gave a brief overview of the Belle Aire operations for those not in attendance at the site visit. It was noted that the business indicated few problems other attraction of talent willing to work in-office and difficulty finding temporary housing for employees. The residential real estate market was discussed. It was noted that currently the MLS only identifies 4 homes under \$500,000 available for sale in Libertyville. The Commission was felt it was valuable to hear the perspectives of local business operators and to learn more about their unique operations.

Business Recognition Program

At the Chairman's request Ms. Rowe showed the program website and nomination form on the screen, she also referenced the promotion schedule included in the meeting packet. The Commission was supportive of the materials presented. The Mayor and Commission suggested a few text adjusts to denote the program as annual and to indicate the process is multi-step including a nomination, followed by selection, and highlight/honoring of identified businesses.

The Commission indicated a desire to proceed with a business breakfast at which selected businesses would be recognized. It was agreed that the Commission would present to the businesses. A rough event outline could include: registration/networking/breakfast (30 minutes), Mayor's update (10 minutes), presentation of businesses (20 minutes), concluding remarks including ways to stay in touch with Village communications (10 minutes). There was some discussion as to whether the presentation of businesses would be live or videotaped. It was noted Chairman Cortesi should have a role in the presentation process. Staff indicated dates would be reviewed for late October or early November.

Other Communications and Discussions

As a follow-up to the Belle Air conversation, the Commission continued a discussion about the need for additional housing types and various price points. They indicated part of the solution to affordability is bringing down the cost with added density. Several commissioners noted support for greater densities in or near the downtown, including investigating slightly taller structures. Mayor Johnson indicated this would be subject of upcoming Board discussion.

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Mr. Spoden provided development updates and the Commission made inquiries relative to the following: ComEd training facility, Brick & Mortar, Wildberry parking lot, Liberty Junction, Physicians Immediate Care, downtown theater site, outdoor dining ordinance revisions, Canlan site work, Trimm property, Tim Smith/North End Garage property future redevelopment potential, etc. Current Metra usage relative to TOD development potential was also discussed.

Ms. Rowe noted the Spring 2023 dining guide was in distribution and she described the market reach.

Ms. Johnson announced Car Fun was celebrating 20 years and was starting up for the season. Trustee Adams noted the GLMV Chamber's Ask the Mayor program would be held during the current week and he also described the Festival of Libertyville kick off.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:54 AM. [Grano-motion/Martin-second]

Respectfully submitted,

Heather J. Rowe, AICP, MLAI
Economic Development Manager