

HAMMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The meeting of the Hammond Economic Development Commission was called to order at 9:00am on Monday, February 7, 2011. The meeting was held at the Department of Planning & Development, 649 Conkey Street, Hammond, Indiana.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Blastic, President
Bonnie Henry, Vice President
Charles Petterson, Secretary
Belia Ybarra, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT

Beth Downes Jacobson
Africa Tarver
Adriana Sandoval
Nicole Bennett

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry to approve the February 1, 2010 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ybarra. Motion passed.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Economic Development Update:

Ms. Jacobson provided an update on a number of Economic Development projects occurring throughout the city.

Lincoln Lake- First home is under construction. There will be five energy efficient homes on the site.

RDA project-Working on pedestrian bridge, the pavilion is complete.

Pulaski and Forsythe Park- Improvements will be made to both parks.

Former Burger King property has been purchased and there are plans for a breakfast type restaurant. The owner is making improvements.

Aarons Auto Glass- The building was vacant for sometime, however the new owner has made façade improvements.

Menards- Formerly 100 employees. Forty additional positions to be created.

Woodmar Mall-Foundation for the first building has been put in place on the north side. There will be two multi-tenant buildings on 165th street. Tenants have not been disclosed.

Marathon- 165th and Kennedy was a vacant property for a long time. It is now the site of a gas station.

Ms. Jacobson described the Facade Rebate program.

APT Physical Therapy is located in the building that was formerly MacTaverns.

ABC Pediatrics is a Pediatric office that is located on Calumet Avenue. The business relocated from East Chicago, Indiana.

Dr. Logmann's building that was formerly Sparkey's on Indianapolis Blvd. has been painted. He took advantage of the Façade Rebate Program.

Mr. Bargains located on Indianapolis Blvd have made some improvements.

Atlas Oil on Summer Street will create 50 new jobs. They will make façade improvements.

Interstate Plaza- Aldi , Whitecastle and the BMV were mentioned. The potential of a theatre locating to the property was discussed.

The developer at the River Park site was discussed. The City has been actively pursuing restaurants for this site. Road construction and funding were discussed.

Hammond Housing has constructed new residential units.

Upcoming plans for downtown Hammond were discussed.

The old federal courthouse has been renovated.

The construction of the Charter School was discussed.

Renovations to various downtown Hammond buildings was discussed.

A Centier Bank will be constructed in the downtown Hammond area.

Two abandoned properties in the downtown area have been demolished.

The commercial phase of the Energy Efficiency Program was discussed. Fifteen businesses will be eligible for energy efficient upgrades. The program was funded with federal dollars from the Department of Energy. Seven of the audits have been completed.

The Job Creation/Business Expansion program was discussed. Business will be eligible for a maximum \$30,000.00

This year will Brownfield remediation will be a priority. One of the primary sites of interest if the former SM Glidden building on Summer Street.

Commissioner Blastic complimented the appearance of Indianapolis Blvd. Mrs. Jacobson discussed the status of the Cabela's outlots.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

There was no public expression.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Ybarra, seconded by Commissioner Henry to adjourn the meeting. The meeting of the Hammond Economic Development Commission adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Approved and signed this _____ day of _____ 2011.

RICHARD BLASTIC, PRESIDENT

CHARLES V. PETTERSEN, SECRETARY

JACOB SACZAWA, RECORDING SECRETARY