

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 29, 2024 6:00 P.M.

[Link to meeting audio recording](#)

Members Present:

Councilmembers: Nieuwsma, Kelly, Wynne, Harris (Virtual), CM Burns(Virtual)

Members: Judice, Dziekan,

Ex Officio: Andy Vick, Angela Shaffer

Absent:CM Reid, Member Pennisi, Katherine Gotsick

Staff Present: Paul Zalmezak, Neal Reeves, Katie Boden

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Call to order at 6:19 p.m. Quorum was declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes from April 24, 2024

Voice Vote. Minutes were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Coulter, First Congregational Church of Evanston. Interfaith Family Pride Festival. Request for \$1,500 for support of the Festival.

Liz Brezlan, Owner of Celtic Knot, spoke seeking support to relocate and stay in Evanston.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of a Contract for "Civic Plaza" Planning Services

Manager Zalmezak explained that he can not share the RFP selection and was advised not to share by our Procurement Office. It will be publicly shared at the June 10th City Council Meeting.

B. Small Business Recovery Program Grant Update and Approval to Use TIF / Legacy Business Funding to Fund Additional Grants

Motion to discuss 4B by CM Wynne. Second by CM Harris

Presentation by Katie Boden seeking feedback from the Economic Development Committee to use alternate funding sources to support more businesses that applied for the Small Business Recovery Program Grant.

Roll Call Vote to Approve passes 7-0-0.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Downtown Evanston Economic Trends

Moved by CM Wynne. Second by CM Reid

Presentation by Manager Zalmezak about the economic data trends. Discussion occurred about change in unemployment rate, availability of space in the retail market, office vacancy and class A/B available space.

B. Discussion of Expanded Ban on Single-Use Plastics

Committee members engaged in discussion about the memo and proposed plan provided by Manager Zalmezak, Manger Pratt, and Solid Waste Coordinator Brian Zimmerman. Chair Nieuwsma referenced and highlighted the existing action plan.

C. Request for Sponsorship of Interfaith Action Festival

Council Member Kelly inquired about additional sponsorship opportunities for the festival. She requested an additional \$500 on their behalf. It was discovered that the City Manager's Office is matching Northwestern with \$1,500.

D. Request for Funding for Celtic Knot

Manager Zalmezak explained that all funds are exhausted. Celtic Knot has received \$35,000 through the Sustain Evanston and Small Business Recovery Grant Fund Accounts.

6. COMMUNICATION

No questions, comments, or announcements

7. Adjournment at 7:57 P.M.