

Economic Development meeting

August 4, 2021

Attending: Dave Behrens, Angie Hibben, Scott McMaster & Terry Anderson,

Absent: Diane Nyhammer, Christi Tyler, Don Howard & Lisa Wentzell

Call to Order: 6 pm by Dave Behrens

Roll Call to Order:

Dave here

Terry here

Diane - absent

Lisa - absent

Don - absent

Angie - here

Scott - here

We did not have quorum so no voting or decisions can be made. There was no one from the Public for comments.

Scott, Terry, Dave and Angie talked about:

The Reserve has announced that Riot Pizza, The Game Shop (Pokémon cards, trading cards), Crema coffee/wine & cheese have reserved space in the retail section with one space of 2100 sq feet left.

Scott announced:

That a restaurant is looking at space next to LaMiramba where the old chamber office was.

The Famous Dave's location still working on details - they have a letter of intent on the building and working on overflow parking to get agreements - hope to announce soon.

Popeyes is starting their buildout in front of Orchard Rd

Another franchise is looking at location next to Popeyes on Orchard Rd.

Terry asked if there was anything from the committee that we can help with. Scott noted that people are asking for certain restaurants, many of which are franchises. The franchise won't just open, they need someone to run them. Dave asked if the corporate franchise contact us or do we contact them? Some come to us and some we have contacted. Scott said if we know someone looking to do a business the Village can hook them up with a franchise. Angie and Scott have talked about having a franchise fair where people can learn about what's happening and what franchises are interested in coming to Oswego and the different costs associated with them

Employment is an issue – many can't find employees.

The Fox Valley Winery is working on permits.

Terry noted it would be nice to have a sidewalk to get from River Mist area to downtown as it is dangerous to walk down Route 31.

Scott noted that Angie had an idea and asked her to talk about it. Angie noted that she thinks it would be a good idea to once a quarter or twice a year host a Business Expert Panel Discussion where we get Building & Zoning, Fox Metro, Fire Department and anyone else that we deem should be on the committee and do an open house where potential new business owners could come in, listen and ask questions. Many people don't understand the permit process and that they also need to talk to Fire Department and Fox Metro as well as the Village, that they need a business license and the importance of having a General Contractor. If we offered this as a service a few times a year hopefully it would help speed the process up and lessen the people who are having a hard time getting their permits etc. cause they don't have the proper paperwork. Other experts in the business world could be invited to - advise people, counsel them such as commercial Real Estate to discuss how to find property, if areas are zoned for that use etc.

Dominick's old location was discussed and Scott noted that the owners of the lease have cancelled 4 meetings with the Village. The Village doesn't them to renew the lease and just leave it empty.

Trader Joe's was discussed- they aren't interested in coming to Oswego. The one in Naperville is close enough for Oswego residents according to their corporate office.

Casey's Gas Stations are taking over the Bucky's gas stations.

Scott noted that if anyone wants to do business retention meetings with him are welcome to -- just let him know.

We adjourned at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted
Angie Hobbs