

Economic Development meeting

August 2022

Dave Behrens, Terry Anderson, Angie Hibben, Don Howard

Call to order at 6:06 pm

Roll call Dave, Terry, Angie, Kevin Leighty,

No quorum as we only have 3 voting members attending

No old business

New business – Kevin gave us his background. It's wonderful to be here, nose to grindstone and get involved. Kevin went to ICSC trade show 3 weeks after he started and learning a lot and working on retention and expansion. His background - Village of Schaumburg doing business retention, was happy there but when this opportunity opened up he was ready to start something new. There is a lot of interest now on Orchard Rd. Exciting time to be here. He asked for background from each of us.

Terry residents for 45 years. Raised family here, realtor in Oswego area for 20 years with John Greene realtor Residential/commercial, Oswego Rotary member - is one of the founding members and working to keep it going. Try to stay involved in the community, moved 4 times in Oswego all within a mile and ½ mile of each other. Chamber member and 4 year board member.

Angie – President of the chamber for 9 years and been with the chamber 14 years, moved here in 1986 and raised 4 children here. 3 oldest daughters married with 6 grandchildren all out of state. Past careers – Preschool teacher, manager of restaurant at Fox Bend and worked in Lisle for 2 ½ years at Bobak's Signature Events. Always been active in the community.

Don Howard in IT for 17 years, was regional manager for Xerox for 6 years was happy there but wanted better work/life balance (130,000 air miles a year). Decided to go into IT, recent resident for 4 years, started in Aurora (Oswego school district) since 2002, fairly active in the chamber.

Dave moved here 1995. Moved from Florida Started in Warrenville then St. Charles then Florida. St Charles was very expensive when they came back and came to Oswego thanks to their realtor. Own the Village Grind for 26 years, past school board member, on the park board, and this commission. Works for Southern Companies Gas (Nicor 38 years). 4 kids all married, 10th grand baby on the way.

EDC roles and responsibilities – Dave says that is where we struggle. Haven't figured out what our roles and responsibilities are. Kevin said both Schaumburg and Elmhurst had pretty involved EDC's did a lot with business retention and expansion. We need to utilize our EDC more. Kevin would like all the help he can get and utilize our relationships. What do we want to do? Terry said our disenchantment in the past was we want to help, we understand that things need to be kept quiet sometimes etc, and we asked frequently to give us 3 or 4 things (what's happening in our community, economic development, future hopes etc). Excitement breathes excitement.

Angie's thoughts – we want to help, business interviews, We love to help. We want to be involved

Don Howard – recruit businesses want to know what is going in an area (automotive etc). we don't need exact business names just an idea that this type of business is going in let's find some complimentary types. Why Oswego and here is why you should come to Oswego? We need marketing info that we can give to any potential businesses we meet.

Kevin has a list of available sites that are being updated. He can share that link with us. Put together a quarterly report of what the village is looking for Kevin has worked on the EDC site.

Angie asked about village business directory and when will that be updated. It was grossly out of date.

Dave would like the ability to rebut the TIF and other perspectives.

Intern researched what other EDC's do and found that they do Event planning – real estate open house, job fair, reviews of grant applications, business of the month/quarter, etc., general business outreach (visit or send letter), e-newsletter (2 – one for small businesses and one for realtors)

Franchise fair – franchises are ready to come but don't have the franchisee yet

Real-estate broker open house

Recommendations for initiatives - ways to reach out and recruit new businesses, general business retention and expansion. We could tag along or do our own. How is their workforce and sales doing, permitting issues, how can the village help

We can recruit businesses but do we have a workforce. We are more attractive if we have a workforce. We need to retain people in our community.

Find out what the local colleges offer for trades/careers, what the local unions are

Convey how our community work together.

Dave asked for: Elevator talking points

More info so we can pitch what's needed in areas

Franchisee fair

Business retention efforts

Site visits

People (matchmaker between college and businesses, trades unions)

Job fair

Options we have in this community

Updated website

Quarterly newsletter – we send potential content

Small town feel

Start thinking of other members to join the commission - we need to have a rep from route 34, business park, downtown, taxing body, realtor, 2 residents before the next meeting in November.

Meeting dates Feb, May, August & November. Same for 2023

EDC report – Shodeen building Riot pizza is gone and will hopefully be Kaia – tapas restaurant. Lease isn't signed yet. Leaving 1 space remaining: deli, breakfast, fast casual restaurant. Oak and Bean early fall. Comic book/hobby store doing well. 98% leased, 2nd building coming soon. Anchor Bar should open any day now, Coopers Hawk wants Route 34, Wendy's own the site next to Popeye's, Poke Bros is open, a lot of interest in Orchard Rd (Zaxbee's & other southern chicken), a lot of interest from cannabis dispensaries.

No EDC reports

Public forum open and close at 7:29

Motion to adjourn 7:30 Don all in favor

Respectfully Submitted
Angie Hill