

Economic Development Meeting

May 3 2023

Attending: Dave Behrens, Ryan Kauffman, Kelly Kennedy, Andy Clements, Terry Anderson, Angie Hibben, Jennifer Jones Sinnott, Tom Guist, Kevin Leighty

Don Howard absent

6:14 called to order

Minutes from Motion to approve Feb Minutes, August 2022, August 2021 Terry Motioned to approve. Andy 2". All approved

Introduction of New Member: Kelly Kennedy-4 kids, husband Chris, moved here 2 years ago. Came back to IL after 13 years to be close to family. Background in public affairs worked in DC for Tim Johnson (moderate Republican). Was grateful that she heard at the board meeting yesterday they all want to work together. Worked for a presidential candidate and was in Public relations in 2 PR firms and then started her own business (14 years part time & full time). When they came to Oswego they knew they wanted to get involved. Somewhat limited in business background. Commissioners and distinguished guests introduced themselves to her.

Kevin introduced Ryan Kauffman, Village President. Wants to see if this could become a monthly meeting. Kevin likes the idea especially if we are going to be doing more. He is concerned about monthly to start with. Angie suggested bi-monthly with the option of calling a "special meeting" if needed. Andy asked if there is a mission/vision statement for the group. It is very vague. Kevin said maybe that is a really good place to start and more define that. Dave B said we wanted talking points. Andy says the energy that was created and the relationships that were created when the OEDC existed was good in the community and when that was folded it took the wind out of the sails. Dave said we have to decide maybe instead of looking at the day to day-what do we want to do in longer range things. Kevin handles the day to day. Kevin said in short term - needs extension of business expansion/retention. Ryan says an ambassador type roll works. Kelley said we should look at both long term and short term. Kevin said if we could do a vision plan for the next 1, 3, 5 10 years and do open houses, SWAT analysis, etc. Jen asked Kevin what did you do in Schaumburg? Did you have a committee of people who assisted in Schaumburg. He said they had a business development commission that met 7 months of the year then have a long break: incentive requests, business of the month, at a restaurant every month (dinner and unique). More of a wine and dine type of event. As a EC Development department they did an outlook for 1-2 years. Meet with stakeholders, village board members, etc. Tom said there is definitely a mix of longer and shorter term but says the shorter term develops the long term. He fears you get feedback from the community but we can't always get the things the community wants. Terry says most businesses since Covid the problem is staffing. We have resources and when we find skills sets that are needed we go back to COD, WCC and say can programs be developed to train these skill sets. Jen said overall awareness we can share the info but you can't

make them get involved. People think it is the village is in charge of say the old Dominicks building but it isn't.

We have to tell the story. Andy said moving back to the purpose of the commission -how much do the communities work together. Is there a template for success for an Economic Development commission? Kevin said we could do research on commissions in the area. ILC has a forum that you can post in and see how some are doing? Ryan said we should reinvent the mission statement. There are 3 main themes: Ambassador type roll, a resource (where community comes to us) and an advisory commission that can bring things to the board. Kevin wants to create a newsletter to talk about these things such as the grant program/loan program.

Andy questioned the financials that are presented from businesses. Information was not redacted in the Yorkville COVID money. Kevin said that was the FOIA officers job to redact info. More concrete responsibilities for people by next meeting. Ryan asked how we do that. Kevin said we can create and adopt a formal commission. Everyone write a sentence or 2 and we bring them together and formulate one. Jen read the Village mission statement.

Old Business-Village/Chamber/Library small business seminars -Create programming to help small businesses grow, develop, etc. We surveyed people what they would like to see:

Franchise fair- match people with franchises. Meet with chamber/library and team - looking at more of a seminar series. 1st Is buying into a franchise right for you? 2nd one -getting your financing in order, 3rd event have the representatives actually there in Oswego or by Zoom.

Business of the month nominations (been here a long time, give back to community) -Angelo (Property Concepts) 1st one; I(elly asked if we combine the retention visit with interviews? Give them a Proclamation for the business of the month? Kelly asks about could the community nominate a business.

Director report - going to ICSC this month later to recruit retailers, restaurants. Have a lot of meetings set up - promising show so far. Meeting with Kite Realty (Dominicks building) Dairy Barn has closed and not reopening. Have already taken down the leasing for Dairy Barn so we think there is something going in there. Oswego Scope across from 113, Mod Stitch in Marmalade Tree, Sherwin Williams and dentist office coming into West Suburban Bank. Orchard Rd parcel between Wendy's and Popeyes will be a automotive place. (auto parts and oil change).

No public forum

Motion to adjourn Terry, 2nd Andy Clements

*Sign this
Respectfully submitted*