

**Village of Gurnee  
Economic Development Committee Minutes  
August 18, 2016**

The meeting was held in Conference Room A, Gurnee Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Road, and called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Chairperson Thorstenson, Tom Henderson, Jim Sula, Michael Deney, Tim Garrity, Roneida Martin

Members Absent: Terry Waddell-Moenter

Other Officials Present: Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director

**1. Public Comment**

Chairperson Thorstenson remarked upon the completion of another great Gurnee Days celebration for the community, including one of the highlights, the Testimonial Dinner honoring Mr. Don Henderson. She noted that the nominations for Mr. Henderson were impressive; clearly, he has touched many lives, and his accomplishments are numerous and varied. Mr. Henderson thanked Trustee Thorstenson for her comments regarding his father and indicated that the honor was very meaningful.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**June 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Deney made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sula, to approve the June 23, 2016 regular meeting minutes.

All voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

**3. Old Business**

East Grand Avenue Gateway (EGG) Revitalization

Ms. Dean discussed the agenda for the upcoming Village Board Committee-of-the-Whole meeting scheduled for August 23 at Spaulding School which includes a presentation of recommendations by the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) panel. This panel of development experts spent two days in Gurnee in July soliciting public input and studying the EGG corridor.

Concurrently, the Village has administered its own online survey to solicit additional resident feedback regarding East Grand Avenue. Ms. Dean explained that the survey results, combined with the panel's recommendations, will provide two sources of input for the EDC, Village Board, and staff to assess 'next steps' for this business district, including any budgetary recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget.

The Committee reviewed and discussed preliminary results of the Village's East Grand Revitalization Survey.

Best of Gurnee Awards Program

Mr. Sula and Ms. Dean provided an update on this awards program which will recognize Gurnee businesses throughout the year for their contributions to the community. Winners will be selected twice annually by a committee comprised of EDC, Village Board, and Chamber of Commerce representatives. Awards will be presented at the Mayor's business luncheon in November and picnic in May.

#### **4. New Business**

##### Holiday Shopping/Dining Campaign

The Committee discussed options for a shopping/dining campaign that would drive local shopping as well as regional awareness of Gurnee's offerings. It was suggested that such a campaign be inclusive of all types of retail, not just independent/small businesses. Several ideas were suggested including: coupons valid for the month of December; a movie night for families at Gurnee Mills; and "punch cards" which encourage shopping at multiple stores.

##### Korea Foreign Investment Week September 27-29, 2016

Ms. Dean shared with the Committee two upcoming opportunities for companies interested in increasing their exports to South Korea. Staff has made contact with representatives from the Korea Trade Investment Agency (KOTRA), which is an arm of the South Korean government charged with facilitating trade. KOTRA is hosting a Chicago roundtable in September as well as a trade mission for interested companies and officials. Gurnee companies have been invited to participate.

#### **5. Informational Items**

Ms. Dean reported that planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Legions of Craft Beer Fest has gone smoothly, applying the lessons learned from the first year. Ticket sales are way ahead of last year, and staff is encouraged that attendance will be strong. This event raises funds for the Gurnee American Legion and Lake County Honor Flight.

Chairperson Thorstenson summarized recent press covering the hyperbuild project serving TriState Corporate Park. She suggested that Director Velkover be invited to the October meeting along with Comcast representatives to provide an overview of services currently available (and planned) for Gurnee businesses.

Ms. Dean provided updates on several development projects and new businesses.

Mr. Garrity made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sula, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ellen Dean  
Economic Development Director