

City of Evansville **Economic Development Committee**
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 16, 2023 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. Brooks called meeting to order at 6:04pm

2. Roll Call:

| | Present/Absent | Others Present |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chair James Brooks | P | Com. Dev. Director Colette Spranger |
| Ben Ladick, Vice Chair | P | Bill Lathrop, Evansville Today |
| Jon Alling | P | City Administrator Jason Sergeant |
| Sue Berg | P | Roger Berg |
| Brandon Rutz | P | |
| Pat Carr | P | |
| Gabe Schrader | P | |

3. Motion to Approve Agenda by Ladick, seconded by Berg, approved unanimously.

4. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 21, 2022 meeting and approve them as printed by Ladick, seconded by Berg, approved unanimously.

5. Civility Reminder. Brooks reminded the committee of the City's commitments to civil discourse.

6. Citizen Appearances, other than listed agenda items.

A. Jodi Saevre, Palace Meets. Ms. Saevre described the trajectory of the coworking space she owns, noting that her business model is shifting slightly in the wake of COVID. The front space will be converted into a yoga studio and the back offices will remain coworking spaces for remote workers.

7. Monthly Report

A. Community Development Report. Spranger gave the report. A recap of recent Plan Commission items was given, along with updates regarding ongoing developments.

B. Chamber of Commerce Report. No report.

C. Tourism Commission Report. Berg gave the report. Updates on the ongoing murals around downtown were given. Upcoming events were shared.

8. Discussion.

A. Introductions and Icebreakers with New Members. Brief introductions of the committee's membership, due to the presence of two new members.

B. Organizing the 2023 Business Summit. Discussion began on the organizing of a business summit. The City last held one in 2008. Focus groups and conversations at that summit resulted in the 2008 Economic Development Plan put together by Whalen and Associates. The majority of the tasks outlined in that report were completed in the last fifteen years. Citizen Roger Berg spoke against the perceived benefits of the 2008 summit, arguing instead for the committee to do more face-to-face meetings of business owners. Brooks and Spranger believe that the combination of the Chamber of Commerce being in transition and businesses recovering from the pandemic mean that the timing might be appropriate for another summit. Discussion continued on, noting the importance of protecting larger businesses and keeping their interests in mind. No action was taken about furthering plans for a new summit.

9. Next Meeting Dates: Monday, February 20, 2023 at 6:00pm.