AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
   With a quorum present, Alderman Wynne called the meeting to order at 8:07pm

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2014
   The meeting minutes of February 29, 2014 were unanimously approved 10-0 with a typo correction.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
   A. Presentation of Economic Development Plan Year-to-Date Activities
      Johanna Nyden, Economic Development Manager, and Paul Zalmezak, Senior Economic Development Coordinator, provided a presentation of the City’s work in Economic Development that was also included in the packet. The presentation included an update on the status of each of the five areas of the multifaceted plan for 2014 which are:
      - Quality of Place
      - Retail Retention & Attraction
      - Arts & Entertainment
      - Entrepreneurship Support
      - Workforce Development

      Alderman Holmes asked if Economic Development could talk with Parks and Recreation about having the food trucks at the concerts in the park because the one that they attended all of the food sold out. Ms. Nyden responded that they have already been talking about and how to accommodate food vendors. Alderman Rainey included that there was a high
demand for the food trucks and suggested that Crave should participate because they offered affordable food options.

Scott Peters expressed that he was really impressed and thought it is a remarkable story for 2014.

Alderman Wynne shared that it would be important to keep them informed because they are out there talking to the community.

B. Arts/Entertainment/Sacred Spaces Presentation

Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Arts Coordinator, joined City staff in November and at that point Economic Development had already begun project. It places artists and art organizations that are looking for office, studio, rehearsal, or performance spaces with houses of worship that already have space that could be used. She has met with over 45 organizations since she first came on board and what she found was that space was needed and the money was not there. Meghan McShan, the Economic Development Intern, has been in the process of inventorying houses of worships and faith leaders looking for potential partners for the project. She mentioned that the project is part of a larger movement of Partners for Sacred Spaces which has provided a lot of help and guidance.

Ms. McShan provided a brief overview of the program. Artists said that finding a space was the most pressing issue for them and they said they needed a variety of different spaces. This program will be a good way to provide our artists with unused space and to keep them local in the community and the congregations will be able to deepen their connection with the community.

Miriam Thiam, Project Manager for Sacred Spaces, shared that they are a nationwide organization working with houses of worship which is considered to be open to all faith based religions. Arts in Sacred Spaces is a program initiative launched three years ago to as a space sharing initiative for the organizations they worked with. It is not just about performing and rehearsal space but also about working spaces for artists. They would be facilitating trainings for houses of worship and arts groups to explain how they will work together. They provide in-depth space sharing agreements to understand who is responsible for when the artists come into the houses of worship. They go down to the basics to who is managing the spaces. They will formalize the experience with them through contracts. A website has been created for artists and houses of worship to have a database to connect them. They will share what their needs are and what space is available to connect but they will still serve as a liaison.

Ms. McShan indicated that there is a 45% engagement rate in Evanston which means that congregations know about the program and have either decided to engage in the program or declined. They determined that during their outreach efforts that many of them are already engaged in space sharing. Right now, there is a participation rate was 25% or 18 houses of worship signed up to participate in the program.

4. COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members
Mr. Zenkich said he knows of a national chain that was interested in the Lululemon space. He was wondering if the space is still available and who would be best to contact. Ms. Nyden stated that he should send them to her.

Alderman Rainey shared that Wild Chicago, channel 11, is recreating themselves in some form and are being directed to Howard Street.

Alderman Holmes stated that there is a new business on Emerson Street, called Emerson Grill 1615 Emerson. It has every kind of food for carry-out.

B. Monthly Economic Development Communication
C. Real Estate Transfer Tax Report

5. ADJOURNMENT
Alderman Wynne welcomed Scott Peters. Alderman Burrus motioned to adjourn and Alderman Rainey seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Parker
Administrative Secretary