ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, June 27, 2018 – 7:30pm  
Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

Absent:         Ald. Rainey, A. Pigozzi  
Staff:          C. Plante, P. Zalmezak

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM  
Ald. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:38

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF May 23, 2018  
Ald. Simmons moved approval  
Ald Braithwaite seconded  
Approved 7-0

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION  
   A. Entrepreneurship Grants  
      a. Aerospace Careers Network Resource  
         Rosalin Cobbs introduced herself and her business, Aerospace Careers Network Resource – she has worked for Boeing for 10 years, and her son earned his private pilot license while still in high school at ETHS. This new business would work with students and their families to provide conferences, trainings, and STEM education to introduce students to careers in aviation and aerospace industries. There’s a talent shortage in these industries and this will help to bridge the gap.

         Ald. Wilson asked if her son would be participating as well.

         Ms. Cobbs said that he would in some capacity. Part of the project is to start a flight simulator lab, and he would be qualified to help with teaching as a licensed pilot. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) recently launched a program to provide a curriculum on aviation and aerospace to high schools for career pathways in unmanned aerial systems (drones), pilots, and aerospace engineers. There are career paths in these fields that also don’t require a 4 year degree that people can go into after high school, including manufacturing.

         Ald. Wilson asked if the simulator equipment was moveable.

         Ms. Cobbs said that it would be; although she’d want to have a dedicated space, she’s looking at rental of existing spaces with computer labs. She’s also meeting with the principal of ETHS later this summer to talk about bringing in the aviation curriculum.

         Ald. Wilson asked if the idea would be to offer certifications or consulting.
Ms. Cobbs said at this point more consulting, but longer term would like to add a nonprofit component.

H. Powell asked for more information about the AOPA high school program.

Ms. Cobbs said that they’re launching it this year, but AOPA offers a free curriculum to US high schools to start teaching students about aviation, aerospace engineering, and unmanned aerial systems. The teacher at each particular school goes to a nationwide training to use the curriculum, but AOPA provides the curriculum. ETHS missed the deadline for this coming school year, but could go for it in 2019-2020. ETHS has 7 STEM labs, and could add an aerospace focus to one of them, and there’s at least one teacher interested in working on this.

J. Sierant asked how this would work if ETHS doesn’t decide to adopt the curriculum.

Ms. Cobbs said that the consulting portion would still be able to proceed independently – she’s already been invited to talk to other organizations about getting kids into aviation careers. Even if they don’t move it forward at the school, she’ll still plan to be working with students and parents individually through speaking engagements, camp and afterschool programs, workshops and mentoring.

M. Berns asked about how to accommodate low-income families with the projected costs of the services she’s proposing.

Ms. Cobbs said that there are families in Evanston that can afford these services. Initially plans to offer some workshops and events for free for the exposure. She would like to add a nonprofit later on.

Ald. Wilson expressed some concern that this program might be more focused on the community service mission rather than starting a business to make money at this point, which is more the point of this particular grant program.

H. Powell said that it does seem like the goal is to make some sort of profit, but you might help some low-income kids too along the way.

**Ald. Braithwaite moved to recommend approval.**  
**Approved 4-3 (Wilson, Berns & Sierant voted no)**

b. Hair Science

Annie Britt introduced herself – she’s an Evanston resident, licensed as a hair stylist since ’99 after training at Pivot Point when it was in Evanston. She opened Hair Science in 2014 at Dempster-Dodge and moved to 707 Howard Street more recently. It was a salon before but needs new equipment. She completed Sunshine Community Business Academy originally looking to start a different business, but the program led her to want to invest in and expand in her salon business to include teaching.
Ald. Wilson moved approval.  
Approved 7-0

B. Storefront Modernization Projects
   a. ORT Resale at 915 Chicago Ave.  
   Ald. Wynne asked if they'd considered making the awning smaller

   Barbara Statland of ORT responded that they haven’t, and that doing so would require more extensive renovations to the underlying façade.  
   M. Wynne moved to hold till July to allow for time to more thoroughly investigate other façade improvement options, and requested that staff set up a meeting.

   b. 10Q Chicken at 816 Church St.
   C. Plante introduced the applicant Will Song of 10Q Chicken – seeking funding for new signage for restaurant taking over the old Five Guys space.

   Mr. Song introduced himself – he previously operated Bop ‘n Grill at Church and Dodge, and is preparing to return to Evanston with a new restaurant concept, 10Q chicken. There was a similar sign when it was Five Guys, but when the sign was removed after Five Guys closed the underlying frame was damaged and needs to be replaced. The name of the new business, 10Q chicken is a meant to sound like “thank you chicken.”

   Ald. Wilson moved approval  
   Approved 7-0

   C. 1030 Davis Street
   Ms. Plante introduced the project – masonry restoration storefront glass and an additional entry door on the Oak Street side of the building. Property owner Marty Cless is working with a new tenant that they're not naming yet.

   Dan Kelch is a partner in the project – added that the façade work is one piece of a major rehab to the building, seeking assistance for the façade portion only.

   Ald. Wilson asked if they’re ok with making the approval contingent on finalizing the lease

   Mr. Kelch said yes.  
   Ald. Wilson Moved Approval.  
   Approved 7-0.

   D. Connections Health at 1824 Sherman Ave.
   Plante introduced the project – seeking funding to add an awning and make accessibility improvements to the front entryway. Introduced Greg Goss – applicant and architect for the project.
Mr. Goss introduced himself – connections health is a consulting & therapy practice with a 10 year lease on the space. There’s currently a 9 inch step up to the entry door – they’ve secured permits to replace it with a wider stoop and add a planter.

Ald. Wilson moved approval
Ald. Wynne seconded.
Approved 7-0

4. COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Monthly Economic Development Communication

P. Zalmezak reported that the FY is half over, and funding for the Storefront and Entrepreneurship programs is nearly exhausted, so future meetings will likely focus on longer term projects and requests like CVB funding.

B. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

5. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 8:35