



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.

Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

**Members Present:** Ald. Wynne, Ald. Wilson, Ald. Rue Simmons, J. Sierant, Ald. Rainey, MB Berns, P. Braithwaite (8:15 p.m. arrival)

**Members Absent:** H. Powell, A. Pigozzi

**Staff Present:** P. Zalmezak, P. Martínez, S. Flax

### **1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF October 24, 2018**

Ald. Rainey moved to approve

Ald. Wynne seconded

Approved 6-0

### **3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **A. Great Merchant Grant**

Ms. Paulina Martínez explained the application and procurement process followed for the Great Merchant Grant program, and then introduced the total funding request of \$51,443, to cover seven business districts and one affinity group.

The following district representatives were present:

- Central Evanston Business – Donna Walker
- Consortium – Clarence Weaver
- West End – Takisha Keys
- Maple/Foster – Carrie Brown
- Central Street – Tom Erd
- Hill Arts – John Leineweber

Ald. Wilson moved to recommend for approval

Ald. Simmons seconded

Passed 6-0

#### **B. Entrepreneurship Support Program**

##### **a. Betty Nelson**

Ms. Martínez introduced applicant, Betty Nelson, and summarized the project and request for \$2,500 in Entrepreneurship Support grant funding

Ms. Nelson presented a summary of her startup business, Nelson Career Curators.

Ald. Wilson asked about the Rogers Park Business Alliance GROW Program. Ms. Nelson explained it is a business startup coaching program helping with creating business plans.

Ald. Rainey asked how to access the GROW program and if it is open to all.

Ms. Nelson explained it's open to community, and that it is a six week boot camp.

Ald. Rainey asked Ms. Nelson where she gets her clients/students. Ms. Nelson indicated its word of mouth, networking, etc.

Ald. Wilson moved to recommend approval  
Ald. Simmons seconded  
Passed 6-0

#### C. Evanston Development Cooperative Request for Funding

Mr. Zalmezak introduced Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Manager.  
Ms. Flax explained how CDBG funds can be used for economic development initiatives. The Evanston Development Cooperative is a for-profit business, which qualifies them to apply for the funds.

Mr. Dick Co introduced himself as the co-founder. The mission of the cooperative is to build affordable and sensible housing. The requested funds would assist in hiring employees to begin building the housing units they have planned. The request is \$60,000 in CDBG funding.

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend for approval  
Ald. Simmons second  
Passed 6-0

#### D. Approval 2019 Meeting Schedule

Ald. Wynne moved to approve  
Ald. Wilson second  
Approved 6-0

### **4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

NONE

### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Economic Development Communication

B. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

Ald. Rainey and Ald. Rue Simmons expressed their concerns about lack of loading zones and parking in their respective wards, specifically at 415 Howard and Church and Dodge.

Ald. Braithwaite expressed concerns about transmission lines between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wards, and their impediment for development.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.