ECOMPONIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 27, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

Members Absent: H. Powell, A. Pigozzi
Staff Present: P. Zalmezak, P. Martinez, 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

      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 assistant 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 5th and 2nd Wards, and their impediment for development.

6. ADJOURNMENT
Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.