



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, G300

Members Present: L. Dziekan, Ald. Wilson (Chair), Ald. Rainey, J. Sierant, Ald. Wynne
Members Absent: H. Powell, Ald. Rue Simmons, Ald. Braithwaite, A. Pigozzi
Staff Present: P. Zalmezak, P. Martínez

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF July 24, 2019

Ms. Dziekan amended the motion for Rachel Holmes' grant request; she moved to strike "Ald. Wilson" from the record, as he was not present at the meeting.

Ald. Rainey moved to approve as amended
Ald. Wynne seconded
Approved 5-0

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Howard Street Tree Lights

Ald. Wilson introduced the item.

Ms. Martínez explained the number of vendors who do holiday lights are limited, and there are none in Evanston. She also explained the lights will be installed along Howard Street from Chicago Avenue to Ridge Avenue – a total of 34 trees.

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend approval
Ms. Dziekan seconded
Passed 5-0

B. Class 7a for 619 H, LLC (619 Howard Street)

Mr. Zalmezak introduced Mr. Christopher Zarek from the Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis. Mr. Zarek explained the applicant, Mr. Mohammed Eldibany, was traveling and unable to be at the meeting, but Mr. Zarek was present to answer questions about the 7a type incentives.

Mr. Zalmezak mentioned Ms. India McKay, co-owner of Peckish Pig, was also present and is also the intended user for the event space planned at 619 Howard Street. He also mentioned Cook County Commissioner Suffredin wrote a letter of support for the project and toured the space.

Ms. Dziekan asked: “how long has property been vacant?” Ald. Rainey replied that the property was occupied until 2017 when Sherwin Williams moved to Green Bay Road, but only half of the property was being used since 2001. Prior to 2001 the property was occupied by an auto supply store until 2001.

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend approval

Ald. Wynne seconded

Passed 5-0

C. 633 Howard Street Lease

Mr. Marcos Rivera, owner of Libertad in Skokie and intended user of 633 Howard Street, said he was excited to come to Howard Street, as it is the place where his father had his first restaurant.

Mr. Rivera stated he is looking to do a neighborhood restaurant with breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He said the menu will include comfort and spicy food, which will be locally sourced. He also intends on applying for a liquor license.

Ms. Dziekan asked staff if the lease rate is similar to others City leases. Mr. Zalmezak replied that the rate is the standard for that location, and that a preliminary conversation with Mr. Rivera leads to the rate too, as well as past experiences with previous tenant.

Ald. Rainey added that Mr. Rivera wants to expand the dining space, so she is comfortable with the \$10,000 request to reconfigure the space.

Ald. Wynne asked what the timeline for opening is. Mr. Rivera indicated he wants to be open for New Year’s lunch.

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend approval

Ald. Wynne seconded

Passed 5-0

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Monthly Economic Development Communication
- B. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Paulina Martínez