

Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

6:30pm July 19th, 2022

Meeting Location – Village Hall

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee of the Village of Indian Head Park was held on July 19th, 2022 at Village Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

The following were present:

Committee Chair/Trustee Eileen Donnersberger
Committee Member Trustee Shawn Kennedy
Committee Member Susan Herley
Committee Member Jim Merrion
Committee Member Kate Boyle
Assistant Village Administrator Andy Ferrini
Administrative Clerk Lisa Bujak

Absent: Committee Member Craig Fisher

Also Present:

12-15 Residents

The following were discussed:

I. The Committee reviewed the minutes from the previous Economic Development Committee meeting which took place on May 17th, 2022. Committee member Merrion motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Committee Member Herley. The motion carried unanimously.

II. New Business

a. Doorhy Insurance Building Update

The proposed Insurance building is no longer going forward due to the cost of construction being too high. The owner is looking to sell the property to someone who will develop it.

b. IHP Plaza Improvements Update

Two landscaping quotes were received from local landscapers. The quotes ranged from \$20,000-\$25,000. The committee discussed keeping the plantings low as to not block the signage of the businesses in the Plaza. The Committee likes the idea of using a few trees that

will come through the tree grant program to plant along Joliet Road. The Committee discussed getting modified quotes to include the following:

Fewer trees
No Round-Up to be used

Altusworks will provide a rendering of the Plaza for \$10,750 to be used to get bids on the façade project. The Village can get additional quotes from architects but would require an RFQ. Village Staff will look into specifics and legal requirements of the above-mentioned.

Village Staff will explore hosting a Village Farmer's Market and Arts & Crafts Fest.

III. Cannabis Dispensary Update

The Village Board voted to approve allowing a cannabis dispensary in Indian Head Park as a special use. The dispensary would need to go through Planning and Zoning prior to final approval. The Village sent letters to license holders in Cook County and has spoken with four recipients and met with two. The Committee discussed the multiple benefits that a dispensary would bring to the Village including additional tax revenue, increased traffic/shoppers coming to the Village and also potential drawbacks such as negative feedback from the residents.

Public Comments:

Danielle S. saw the landscaping proposals and notice that no native plants were included and that the Village should request native plants to be included in the project. She also suggested planting native trees such as Burr Oaks and requested that no Round-Up be used.

Julie B. is opposed to a cannabis dispensary because it is not family-friendly and she feels it will prevent other businesses from wanting to be located in the Village. She has a lot of data and saw a study that showed increased crime in areas with dispensaries. She indicated that marijuana is a gateway drug and that the Village shouldn't be known for having a dispensary.

Thomas B. disagreed that the property values would increase with having a dispensary in town. He said that marijuana use leads to fentanyl use and that the residents don't want that.

Lori D. agrees with the previous comments and said that money can't buy class. She also feels that the Village charges too much for business license fees.

Amy Jo W. asked if the Village had met with the Chamber of Commerce to attempt to bring more businesses into the Village and wants to see the Committee spend as much time trying to entice other types of businesses. She mentioned that Countryside Chamber of Commerce offered to take in Indian Head Park businesses. She suggested that the Committee have an open house with local business owners. La Grange Park has Streetscape Improvements going on and she knows the man doing the project. She wants to make sure the Committee is doing everything it can to improve revenue and they should look into all online sales taking place in the Village to make sure revenue is not lost. She asked for a church update, Village Staff informed her that it has been purchased by Ebenezer Pentecostal Church and the Village will do a grand opening ceremony when the new owners are settled. She reminded the Committee that residents favor family-friendly businesses.

Committee Member Merrion said the Committee has spent a lot of time and approached many types of business and looks at all kinds of options for increase revenue.

Nick V. doesn't understand the Village's fixation with cannabis and he agrees with the other residents' comments. He mentioned that high THC levels lead to shootings. He also doesn't understand why Wolf Road needs to be expanded if traffic counts are low.

Dayle Holmquist submitted a comment via email. Over the past few years, residents have firmly opposed opening a cannabis business, or dispensary in our village. There appears to be an aggressive push to make this happen. What's the point in contacting these businesses, offering incentives, etc. when it is CLEARLY not the family-friendly business that residents want?? The VAPE Shop appeared with no discussion. Residents are not happy with it. Even the FDA is trying to halt Juul sales. It's harmful— Particularly to our youth. What happened to the upscale daycare interest? That type of business is family-friendly. I think residents would be happy with that.

With there being no further business to discuss, Trustee Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm, seconded by Committee Member Herley. Motion carried unanimously. Next meeting is scheduled for September 20th.