

**Observer:** Julianne Dieterich

**Meeting began:** 7:10pm

**Meeting Ended:** 8:20pm

**Aldermen Present:** Tendam (chair), Fiske (left after citizen comment), Wynne, Rainey, Holmes, Mary Beth Berns (Zoning Board of Appeals), Terry Dubin (Plan Commission), Hecky Powell (At Large)

**Staff Present:** Johanna Leonard, Paul Zalmezak, Cindy Plante, Marty Lyons

**Media Present:** EvanstonNow

**Citizen comment:** Five. Fiske spoke as a “citizen” in support of the proposed development at the library parking lot, which Council had voted down 6-2 on 4/24. She believes that misinformation has been presented in the press and wants the committee to be aware of the economic benefits that she believes the project will bring. She then invited Paul Zalmezak to address the committee, to be followed by three representatives of the developer. Based on Wynne’s objection to a staff member presenting during citizen comments and a general sense that the committee did not want the developers to use the citizen comment period to make a formal presentation when there had been no public notice that the issue would be before the committee, the chair agreed to allow citizen comment from two members of the development company and the architect) (but not Zalmezak). They spoke in general about the benefits they believe the project would bring and the efforts they have undertaken to be sensitive to the historic buildings on the block. A fifth citizen also spoke regarding the library lot project, asking that citizen concerns be considered.

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

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF February 22, 2017

#### 3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Agreement with Main Dempster Mile Special Service Area #6. The new executive director of the SSA presented information on the marketing efforts for the Main/Dempster district. The committee approved the proposed agreement, which will proceed to Council.

B. Storefront Modernization Grant for 3006 Central St. (Central Rug & Floors). Committee approved a grant of up to \$12,000 for exterior improvements.

C. Storefront Modernization Grant for 1610 Maple (Evanston Games & Café). Committee approved a grant of up to about \$2,000 for a new sign

In response to concerns from Berns and Rainey about the formula for determining the grant amount (specifically, how it treats outlier bids when calculating the average cost to determine the eligible grant amount), Leonard indicated that another revision of the grant program would likely be forthcoming.

#### 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Annual Update from Downtown Evanston – Annie Coakley updated the committee on Downtown Evanston’s progress over the last year and its plans for the coming year.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Economic Development Communication

B. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

C. Quarterly Report: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017

D. Entrepreneurship Program Report

## 7. ADJOURNMENT