

Observer: Julianne Dieterich

Meeting began: 7:10 pm (started late because Parking/Trans. committee ran over)

Meeting Ended: 8:00 pm

Aldermen Present: Wilson (chair), Wynne, Rue Simmons, Braithwaite, Andrew Pigozzi (Plan Commission), Hecky Powell (at large), Jeannemarie Sierant (at large). (Rainey and Mary Beth Berns (Zoning Board of Appeals) were absent.)

Staff Present: Paul Zalmezak, Cindy Plante

Media Present: Daily

Citizen comment: None

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Entrepreneurship Grants – Owners briefly introduced their companies in conjunction with requests for total of \$7,605 in assistance under the Entrepreneurship Grants program. The program was created to provide small one-time grants to support creation/expansion of small businesses, particularly minority-/women-owned enterprises. Committee approved the four grants without discussion.

a. Hubris Wealth Management

b. Eye Boutique Kloset

c. C&W Market

d. Best 1 Built

B. Storefront Modernization Grants

a. Squeezebox Books & Music at 743 Main St. (\$6883 for awnings)

b. Stepping Out On Faith at 1632 Orrington Ave. (\$823 for signage)

Atypically, neither of the applicants were present, which raised question of whether to approve with condition that they must appear at Council. The requests were straightforward and similar to other requests, so the committee approved both requests conditional on the applicants being present before Council to answer any questions.

C. Small Business Workforce Funding – Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse

Zalmezak introduced this grant request by reminding the committee that the small business workforce funding program was created after the City provided funding to Curt's Café, in order to create standard guidelines for workforce training programs. This is the first request since that time. Rebuilding Warehouse provides training in deconstruction techniques, the grant would offer \$15,000 (guidelines allow \$3,000 each for 5 Evanston resident participants, payable when the participant has been employed for 90 days). ERW requested reimbursement at the

time of employment rather than after 90 days. Approved with the recommendation to Council for the earlier reimbursement.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Economic Development Communication

B. RETT Report

C. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

5. ADJOURNMENT