

Observer: Julianne Dieterich

Meeting began: ~7:10 pm

Meeting Ended: ~8:30 pm

Aldermen Present: Wynne (chair), Rainey, Wilson, Rue Simmons, Braithwaite, Mary Beth Berns (Zoning Board of Appeals), Jeannemarie Sierant (At Large), Hecky Powell (At Large)

Staff Present: Johanna Leonard, Paul Zalmezak, Cindy Plante

Media Present: Evanston Now

Citizen comment: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF April 26, 2017

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Annual Funding Request for Chicago's North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau – After presentation, committee approved \$81K funding request.

B. Entrepreneurship Grants – This is a new program that Council approved in April on the recommendation of M/W/EBE Committee. The program will provide one-time grants of up to \$2,500 for qualifying business expenses and/or up to \$1,000 in assistance with City licensing and permitting fees. Wilson expressed support for the 3 firms that had initially applied but raised concerns that the guidelines for the program are overly broad, so that eligibility could extend to more businesses than intended. There was broad agreement that the intent of the program was to benefit new businesses that had completed an entrepreneurship program like Northwestern's LEND program or Sunshine Enterprises' city-funded program and that had a demonstrated financial need. Staff agreed to hold further applications until the guidelines were revised for greater clarity. In the meantime, the committee approved the initial three requests:

- i. Jennifer's Edibles (equipment) - \$2,500
- ii. Human Success Factors (software and advertising) - \$2,500
- iii. Sharp Edge Crossfit – (equipment and special use zoning fees) - \$3,500

C. Storefront Modernization Grant for Sharp Edge Crossfit at 1324-1326 Dodge – In addition to the Entrepreneurship Grant, the committee approved a \$50,000 request for financial assistance for interior and exterior renovations at a former auto garage behind the Starbucks at Dempster & Dodge. The committee raised some issues (the lease is not yet executed pending special use zoning, there is another Crossfit gym at Dempster/Dodge, there is just a small portion of the building that fronts the street, but the grant supports "storefront" improvements) but was favored assistance because the building has been long vacant and the gym seemed like a good use for the space.

In the discussion, Berns raised good questions, pushing staff for better metrics and trends on the performance of companies that have received Storefront Modernization grants.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Lease of 633 Howard St. by Pascal Berthomieux – Staff and Berthomieux provided an update on negotiations to lease the former police outpost to Berthomieux to open a bakery and coffee shop. (Berthomieux owns Patisserie Coralie and Creperie St. Germain and recently closed Bistro Bordeaux.) A loan agreement and request for financial assistance will be presented to the committee at its June meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Economic Development Communication

B. RETT Report

C. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

6. ADJOURNMENT