

Observer: Mary Gavin

Members present in person: Council members Clare Kelly (chair), Melissa Wynne, Jonathan Nieuwma, Bobby Burns; Devon Reid attended by phone.

Staff present: Paul Zalmezak, economic development manager; Neal Reeves, economic development specialist.

There were only two items on the agenda, and the meeting began promptly just after 6 and ended at 6:30.

1. Approval of Funding for Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Center for FY 23: \$55,739

Annie Coakley of Downtown Evanston read a letter in support of the funding, from Central Street Business Association, Main-Dempster Mile and Downtown Evanston.

Approved unanimously, to be forwarded to Council.

2. Creation of a New Legacy Business Program Sub-committee of the Economic Development Committee

Everyone seemed in favor of creating this program, which would give money to certain stalwart businesses as a reward for having been here long-term, as well as other businesses for having been here a while as an enticement for them to remain.

There was discussion of how to involve representatives of certain businesses in the decision-making, without giving them voting power. It was decided to create a working group rather than a subcommittee – details to be worked out at subsequent meetings.