

City of Franklin Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2010

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Skowronski at 6:00 p.m. in the Hearing Room of Franklin City Hall.

Members present were Chairman Skowronski, Alderman Olson and Commissioners Burac-Englert, Hintz, Kerr, Oleson, Zawacki and Michlig. Commissioners Haselow (6:50) and Karolewicz (6:17) arrived later. Commissioners Desai and Ohm were excused. Also present was Assistant City Attorney Brian C. Sajdak.

II. Citizen Comment Period

The floor was open to Citizen Comments. With no citizens expressing a desire to speak, the citizen comment period was closed.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. November 23, 2009

Item held over until next meeting.

IV. Business

A. 27th Street Update

Alderman Olson indicated that there has been no action on 27th Street because WisDOT has been delayed in making a decision on whether the corridor will have Roundabout or Traditional Signalized intersections. Chairman Skowronski handed out and discussed an email from Vida Shaffer from WisDOT confirming the same and offering explanations for the delay. No action taken.

B. Trail Committee Report

Commissioner Michlig announced that the City has obtained a \$2,500 grant for the purposes of holding a walking workshop to attempt to get more students walking to schools. For Safe Route to School, he indicated that Pleasant View would be the focus as a type of "pilot" program and that the high school may change to an open campus. Alderman Olson suggested that the middle school foot trail should be an area to look at as well. Discussion followed about whether the focus was just public schools or private as well. Commissioner Michlig also indicated that local corporate donations would be welcomed for the workshop. No action taken.

C. Discussion concerning possible Incentive Programs

Assistant City Attorney presented a recent article on incentives used in two other local communities. Chairman Skowronski requested that members provide written comments and ideas

on the topic. Discussion followed between the members concerning the need for incentives and its impact on development. Discussion followed on how incentives fit into the development process and procedure in Franklin. No action taken.

D. Discussion concerning New Business Developments in Franklin

Chairman Skowronski indicated that Jump Zone – an indoor inflatable climber play facility – was developing approximately 11,000 sq. ft. in the old Pick and Save on Lover’s Lane which would do a lot to revitalize that mall. Commissioner Michlig indicated that this was a good repurposing of a big box facility. Discussion was held among the members on assisting small businesses such as this one. Chairman Skowronski then indicated that the building on the Franklin Automotive site was down and that they were moving forward. No action taken.

E. Highway 100 Update

Chairman Skowronski provided a handout on the general scope and time table of WisDOT’s project to reconstruct HWY 100 from the Root River to St. Martin’s Road (CTH MM). No action taken.

F. City’s Task Force on Updating the UDO

Chairman Skowronski indicated that volunteers would be requested to be part of the Task Force. Members Kerr and Michlig volunteered and Chairman Skowronski indicated that those names would be passed on to the Mayor. No action taken.

G. Possible Recommendation to the Common Council for Franklin Membership in Wisconsin Manufactures & Commerce

Chairman Skowronski introduced the matter. Assistant City Attorney Sajdak indicated that the Clerk’s office indicated that Franklin may have been a member in the past but that memberships were cut for budget reasons. Alderman Olson indicated that he did not recall prior membership in the organization. Commissioner Michlig questioned whether the City should be a member of such a partisan organization. Discussion was held among the members on the nature of the organization and the cost of membership. Consensus appeared to be that membership was not appropriate. No action taken.

V. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Skowronski indicated that the next meeting date would be February 22, 2010.

VI. Adjournment

Motion made (Ald. Olson) and seconded (Zawacki) to adjourn. Motion Carried: Ayes (10); Noes (0).