

CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS
Business/ Economic Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Grossart called the meeting of the Business/Economic Advisory Committee to order at 12:00 Noon at the Palos Heights City Hall. Present were: Bob Grossart, Rick Powell, Lori Mazeika, Dr. Chuck Polcaster, Barb Bergamo, Judi Weber, Mike Coogan, Anthony Caciopo, Alderman Jeff Key, Trinity guests and Recording Secretary Charlotte Moore. Ken Busse and Paul Muehlnickel were absent.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Grossart requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Open Air Pavilion. Chairman Grossart reported that a few months ago we engaged Trinity Christina College to do a study for us. We asked: What could we do to get the benefits of an Open Air Pavilion in Palos Heights. There were 6 students on the committee. The committee went around and saw what some of the other municipalities are doing in the nearby area and they talked to some different people. The conclusion is that they saw a benefit to having a central gathering area in Palos Heights in the form of an amphitheater type structure.
 - Benefits include:
 - A central gathering area for the Palos Heights community
 - Family Friendly
 - Enhance the City of Palos Heights
 - Expand Events – Farmer’s Market, Concerts, Movie nights
 - Host family parties & other social gatherings
 - Cost:
 - \$5.5 million
 - Open-Air Pavilion: \$3,500,000
 - Splash Pad: \$300,000 (3,200 square feet)
 - Lighting: \$500,000
 - Parking Lot: \$100,000
 - Miscellaneous: 1,000,000
 - Funding:
 - Private Donors
 - Public Taxation
 - Donations
 - Land:
 - Approximately 3 acres

Then they looked at locations, 2 were parks and one was the strip mall by Starbucks. They tried to list some Pros and Cons. The first thing we want to do is decide what we want to do and then do some more research. The study was well done. They did a presentation of 20 to 30 minutes to a group of 10 to 15 people. This is just a starting point.

Jeff Key mentioned the facility that is in O'Fallon, Illinois. They are trying to embrace the idea of place making to draw people in. The idea of place making and drawing people can work for Palos Heights and should be part of the Comprehensive Plan. A project like this needs to be put in there. Property will be needed, so if property becomes available the City should look into it.

Mike Coogan commented that the towns that are used for examples are much larger than Palos Heights. The theoretical price tag is pretty stark.

Bob Grossart though we could possibly combine with Lake Katherine on their Pavilion and wants to make sure this is all in the comprehensive plan.

Mike Coogan was wondering if it would make sense to use Palmer Park as a site. Jeff Key mentioned that the grant for Palmer Park has been in the work for 2 years. Bob Grossart thought the property be Starbucks would be good location. Discussion ensued.

- Trinity's Regional Startup Hub. John Wightkin from Trinity College reviewed from last time the opportunity for Palos along with Trinity to become this hub in the south suburbs for a lot of entrepreneurial activity. One of the most important things is to facilitate the development of a better world through entrepreneurship.

The Fusion 59 innovation center at Trinity is a place for students to come together and interact in a collaborative way. The "1871" program is a bigger place. A center for technology and entrepreneurship in Chicago. It is the largest start-up community in the nation, focusing on Tech. Trinity is one of 7 partners that pay to be part of "1871".

Betsy Ziegler, the CEO of 1871 is coming to Trinity on March 13th. She will be talking about the intersection of higher Ed, business and entrepreneurship. People don't get why Trinity has this relationship with 1871. This is an opportunity to let people understand what this relationship looks like.

There will be networking workshop on March 14th. I would be great for some business people to show up for lunch and have the students be able to practice what they learned in the workshop. Discussion ensued

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Moore
Recording Secretary