

CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS



Business/ Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes May 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Grossart called the meeting of the Business/Economic Development Advisory Committee to order at 12:00 Noon at the Recreation Center in Palos Heights. Present were: Bob Grossart, Alderman Jeff Key, Dr. Chuck Polcaster, Rick Powell, Barbara Bergamo, Veronica Studnicka, Carri Sirigas, and Recording Secretaries Lauren Koszola and Tayler Swiedals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Grossart made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting, seconded by Barbara Bergamo. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Fusion59

Rick Powell explained Fusion59 as Trinity Christian College's innovation center. There are three programs centered around social media consulting. This fall, students will work with 4 businesses to build their social media presence, and Palos Heights has the opportunity to fill those 4 spots first. There will be a grant offered to businesses in Palos Heights and the chamber. The committee suggested we set up an interview with channel 4 to get this information out to the public. Discussion ensued.

Holiday in the Heights

Bob Grossart brought up the issue of whether the government will allow this type of event to be held due to the pandemic guidelines. Also, it was discussed whether local businesses would be in the financial position to support the event through donations. The committee discussed ways to get donations if the local businesses cannot contribute. Bob Grossart brought up the issue of whether there would be food sale restrictions, as well as staffing needing to be finalized. The committee discussed the financial commitments needed. There will be a committee meeting in June to discuss this event in detail.

Welcome Back 2021

Trinity will wait until closer to the summer months to make any decisions as plans for this upcoming school year have not been set. Plans will need to be made by June or July to ensure time for planning.

Business Occupancy Report

The Business Occupancy report was not presented at the meeting.

Meeting with the Mayor

Committee members met with Mayor Straz and addressed some key concerns regarding the role of the committee. Bob Grossart explained that the committee would like to focus on meeting the needs and providing value to the city, and cementing the advisory role of the committee. A questionnaire regarding the role of Palos Heights in Economic Development was presented to committee members to thoughtfully review in the time between now and the meeting in June.

Property Focus 2021

Tiffany Square has been sold. Additional information regarding the sale was not known at the time of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm and the committee entered into an executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Swiedals & Lauren Koszola
Recording Secretaries