

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: January 8, 2015**

**11:00 AM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

2) **Old Business:**

3) **New Business:**

a) Further discussion on the direction for the strategic planning process.

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: February 5, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2014, and January 8, 2015 meetings.
  - b) Further discussion on the direction for the strategic planning process.

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date - Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

***Please Note: the next meeting is a Quarterly Roundtable Meeting***

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: March 5, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2014, and January 8, 2015 meetings
  - b) Report regarding Amtrak issue
  - c) Report on strategic planning process
  - d) Business Roundtable Meeting
    - Future Roundtable Topics
  - e) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

Next Quarterly Roundtable Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: April 2, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - b) Report on strategic planning process
  - c) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**CITY OF GENOA**

**Economic Development Commission**

Meeting Date – May 7, 2015

12:00 Noon

Municipal Center Council Chambers

**AGENDA**

**This meeting has been cancelled.**

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: June 4, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2015, and April 2, 2015 meetings
  - b) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - c) Report on strategic planning process
  - d) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: July 2, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2015 meeting
  - b) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - c) Report on Volksmarch event
  - d) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: August 6, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2015 meeting
  - b) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - c) Report on Volksmarch event
  - d) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa  
Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: September 3, 2015**  
**12:00 PM**  
**Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from August 6, 2015 meeting
  - b) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - c) Report on Volksmarch event
  - d) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa**  
**Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: October 1, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2015 meeting
  - b) EDC Background Information
  - c) Resolution of Appreciation for former Chair
  - d) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - e) Report on Volksmarch event
  - f) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa**  
**Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: November 5, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2015 meeting
  - b) Updates regarding Amtrak issue
  - c) EDC Background Information/Economic Development Opportunities
  - d) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 12:00 P.M.

**City of Genoa**  
**Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Date: December 3, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Municipal Center**

**Council Chambers**

**Agenda**

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) **Old Business:**
- 3) **New Business:**
  - a) Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2015 meeting
  - b) EDC Background Information/Strategic Planning Process-  
Soaring/Economic Development Opportunities Discussion
  - c) Updates on local new businesses and other developments

Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting Date- Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 12:00 P.M.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

January 8, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Kevin McArtor called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:15 PM.

On roll call, members Kevin McArtor, Jonathon Brust, Krissy Johnson, and Carolyn Tobinon were present. Cortney Strohacker, Chamber of Commerce; Mike Cirone, 3 Roses Realty; Paul Borek, DCEDC; Gwen Garza, NB&T; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Cortney Strohacker and Krissy Johnson announced that Krissy had joined the Chamber staff, as part of Genoa Main Street entering into a contract and providing funds to the Chamber for certain events with the demise of GMS. It was noted that GMS had provided funds to SOARing. The Chamber will take on the Car show, Movies on Main Street, and the Farmers Market. Patti Marx from GMS will be joining the Chamber Board. Ms. Strohacker indicated the Chamber was not going to participate in the USDA NIU program.

Kevin McArtor indicated that it was appropriate to conclude with NIU and keep the cost within the original \$3,700 contract scope, as part of wrapping up the SOARing project. He indicated he wanted to meet with the Mayor and Mr. Misurelli on how to pursue follow-up further with the City Council. It was suggested a meeting be held with the SOARing group on January 15. Mr. McArtor asked if he could meet with the Mayor and Mr. Misurelli prior to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Misurelli said he would contact the Mayor to arrange. It was suggested that a presentation before the City Council prior to the Chamber Annual Dinner on 2/19 would be desirable.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Tobinon moved and Mr. Brust seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

March 5, 2015 Meeting

In the absence of Chairman Kevin McArtor, Carolyn Tobinon called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:06 PM.

On roll call, members Jonathon Brust, Krissy Johnson, and Carolyn Tobinon were present. Megan Thomas and Jerry Helland, SOARING members, Paul Borek, DCEDC; Gwen Garza and Ishmael McGhee, NB&T; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the January 8, 2015 and December 11, 2014 minutes as presented. On roll call, all present voted aye.

Mr. Misurelli provided a Power Point presentation regarding the AMTRAK issue. He also provided an update regarding recent developments on the matter.

Ms. Garza reported on the Committee of the Whole meeting with the City Council and stated she was very pleased with the outcome. She stated that they would be meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> since Norm Walzer did not want to lose a month and wanted to identify low hanging fruit.

Mr. Misurelli reported on the Custom Aluminum expansion project which would encompass 37,500 square feet of industrial space, that the Trading Post had opened in the former ES II location, and that it looked as though the AGCS environmental clearance from a spill of TCE might possibly be finally closed.

Krissy Johnson provided a report from the Chamber on the Car Show in August. Paul Borek provided a report about various DCEDC initiatives including a planned May Industrial focus luncheon related to Agricultural sector businesses, such as Cademon, Prairie State Winery, Whisky Acres, Sycamore Brewing and the Brew Pub in Sandwich.

There being no further business for discussion, Mr. Brust moved and Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

April 2, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Kevin McArtor called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:07 PM.

On roll call, members Kevin McArtor, Jonathon Brust, Krissy Johnson, and Carolyn Tobinson were present. Jerry Helland, SOARING member, Cortney Strohacker, Genoa Chamber Executive Director; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Mr. McArtor inquired if the invoices from NIU were paid. Mr. Misurelli informed him that none had been received from NIU. Mr. McArtor stated that he thought it best that EDC meetings would be the meetings for the SOARING topics. Mr. McArtor stated he was forming with Mr. Mamoser and some building owners a Downtown Committee. It was noted that some interest in changing parking to shorter term spaces had been brought up. Mr. Misurelli noted that he had already spoken to the business owner and stated the City Council could consider revisions such as 15 minutes spaces if we received an indication of support by the business effected or in that location. A concern was expressed that such a Committee ought to be part of the Chamber since it was duplicating the Chambers' responsibilities. Ms. Strohacker noted that some businesses downtown might not be Chamber members, some discussion Mr. Misurelli noted that any meeting of the EDC would have to comply with the open meetings statutes. After some discussion as to the status of such a group it was noted that it would not be connected with the City or EDC.

It was note that the River park committee should be focused on the Park District. Mr. McAretor said he wanted to host a dinner for larger industrial owners as a CEO unplugged evening.

Ms. Tobinson reported on the events group and its efforts. Ms. Strohacker noted that Mr. Harris was not willing to give the Genoa Events domain name to the group.

Mr. Misurelli provided a Power Point presentation regarding the AMTRAK issue. He also provided an update regarding recent developments on the matter.

There being no further business for discussion, Mr. Brust moved and Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

June 4, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Kevin McArtor called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:05 PM.

On roll call, members Kevin McArtor, Krissy Johnson, and Carolyn Tobinon were present. Gwen Garza, NB&T Bank; Mike Cirone, Four Roses Real Estate; Cortney Strohacker, Genoa Chamber Executive Director; Katie Smith, DeKalb Daily Chronicle; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Carolyn Tobinon moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2015 and April 2, 2015 meetings. Krissy Johnson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, all present voted aye.

Ms. Tobinon reported on the Volksmarch and Craft Brew event being planned in September.

Mr. Misurelli reported on the DCEDC event held focusing on Agricultural products used in local business including 2 of the 4 businesses being from Genoa, Prairie State Winery and Cademon Brewing. He also reported on the budget adopted by the legislature not providing any funds for operating cost of new Amtrak services. He reported on working with the owner of Prairie Point Shopping center and a sale being accomplished to a Gymnastics Training business. He reported on the Economic Development Video in production and Café 72 undergoing renovations to be a new Restaurant called Wild Harvest. Ms. Strohacker reported on the Farmers Market and King and Queen contest, the Video preview mixer and the upcoming car show, golf outing and Movies on Main Street. Mr. McArtor noted his interest in putting together a downtown business group due to the demise of Main Street.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Tobinon seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

July 2, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Kevin McArtor called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:10 PM.

On roll call, members Kevin McArtor, Krissy Johnson, and Carolyn Tobinon were present. Paul Borek DCEDC Executive Director; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Ms. Tobinon moved and Ms. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2015 regular meeting. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

Ms. Tobinon reported on the Volksmarch and the arrangements for the event for the weekend scheduled in September. She described the background of the Volksmarch concept.

Mr. Borek reported on the enterprise zone application review process, the Ideal Expansion, and the Black Bear project (3M expansion).

Ms. Johnson reported on the Farmer's Market success, the upcoming Movies on Main Street being "Frozen" and the preview of the City's Economic Development video, the upcoming golf outing, the upcoming Duck race, and the Car show scheduled in August.

Mr. Misurelli provided a report on the letter to the Governor regarding the AMTRAK issue, which was signed by all Mayors and Village President in DeKalb County and County Board Chair plus the Mayors of Hampshire and Burlington. He noted that the day before they had met with Randy Blankenhorn, the Secretary of IDOT and provided him his copy of the letter in person, and had a very good meeting. He also provided an update regarding other recent developments on the matter.

Mr. Misurelli reported that Robert's Drive In had been acquired by Genoa Motors and Wild Harvest Café had opened at the former Café 72.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Tobinon seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

August 6, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Kevin McArtor called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:10 PM.

On roll call, members Kevin McArtor, Krissy Johnson, and Carolyn Tobinon were present. Gwen Garza, NB&T Bank; Mike Cirone, 3 Roses Real Estate; Paul Borek, DCEDC Executive Director; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Ms. Tobinon moved and Ms. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2015 regular meeting. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

Ms. Tobinon reported on the Volksfest and the arrangements for the event for the weekend scheduled in September. She noted that a Friday night event had been added. She described the background of the Volksmarch concept. She noted the logo designed by Jim Hill on the brochure and a facebook site and website established additionally. She noted that this was the first Volksmarch in Northern Illinois.

Mr. Misurelli provided a report on AMTRAK noting that they had met with United States Senator Mark Kirk's staff regarding the issue.

Mr. Misurelli reported on the City's new Economic Development promotional video, that Energym, which had acquired the Prairie Ridge Point Shopping Center was looking at architectural services for build-out of their space, a new business had located in the rear of the Coldwell Banker Real Estate Office, construction was moving along on Custom Aluminum's Industrial project, the largest in Genoa in many decades, and that the Plan Commission would be considering a petition to assist the property at Pearson and Route 23 to allow splitting their parcel.

Mr. Borek reported on Pottawatomie Band Casino project in Shabbona, the enterprise zone application review process in which he noted DeKalb County scored very well, and he noted the County was considering doing an Economic Development Vision and Strategic Planning Process for the entire County.

Ms. Johnson reported on the recent Farmer's Market as a huge success being nearly sold out, the upcoming Movies on Main Street on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Lunch with Rep. Pritchard, the upcoming Duck race, and the Car show scheduled on August 15th.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Tobinon moved and Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

September 3, 2015 Meeting

Chair Carolyn Tobinson called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:20 PM. Mr. Misurelli noted Ms. Tobinsons' recent appointment and unanimous confirmation as Chair by the Mayor and City Council.

On roll call, members Carolyn Tobinson, Krissy Johnson, and Kim Egger were present. Cortney Strohacker, Genoa Chamber Executive Director; Joann Watson, Alderman; Ishmael McGhee and Rob Mason, NB&T; Paul Borek, DCEDC Executive Director; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

It was noted that the August minutes should reflect that Genoa's event was the first Volksmarch in Northwest Illinois. Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Egger seconded to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2015 regular meeting as revised. Upon voice vote, Ms. Tobinson and Ms. Johnson voted aye and Ms. Egger abstained.

Mr. Misurelli explained the provisions of the Open Meetings Act and publication requirements since there were new members joining the EDC.

Ms. Tobinson reported on the Volksfest and the arrangements for the event coming up in a few weeks. She detailed the Friday night event which had been added. She described the background of the Volksmarch concept for those that had not heard about it previously. She distributed copies of the brochure and noted the facebook site and website which had been established additionally.

Mr. Misurelli provided a report on AMTRAK noting the various contacts they had met with including United States Senator Mark Kirk's staff regarding the issue, and that a meeting with Congressman Kinzinger was being scheduled.

Mr. Misurelli reported on the City's new Chief of Police appointment, Moscato's new location and expansion, and revision of bartender licensing provisions to assist local businesses, and that the Plan Commission had approved a petition to assist the property owners at Pearson and Route 23 to allow splitting their parcel.

Mr. Borek reported on the enterprise zone approval of DeKalb County as one of the 49 across the State, in which he noted DeKalb County scored well into the top ½ of applicants. He announced that Governor Rauner would be the keynote speaker at the DCEDC annual dinner on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and noted the Business roundtable on September 29<sup>th</sup> related to tourism.

Ms. Strohacker reported on the success of the Car show on August 15<sup>th</sup>, that the Farmer's Markets had been a huge success this season with one more left, that Jan Tures, the City's Finance Office Manager, would be joining the Chamber Board, she reported on the Lunch with Rep. Pritchard, the upcoming Duck race, and that Celebrate the Season would be December 4<sup>th</sup> and the Annual dinner February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Egger moved and Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

October 1, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Carolyn Tobinon called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:04 PM.

On roll call, members Carolyn Tobinon, Kim Egger, Phil Harris, Krissy Johnson and Parag Maniar were present. Mark Vicary, Mayor; Ishmael McGhee, Gwen Garza, and Rob Mason, NB&T; Alyssa Seguss and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Following introductions, Ms. Tobinon moved and Ms. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2015 regular meeting. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

Since all the new EDC members were present, Mr. Misurelli explained the provisions of the Open Meetings Act and publication requirements. Further since there were new members joining the EDC, he provided a presentation covering the various activities and accomplishment that had occurred over the past year or so, including relative to AMTRAK, noting that they had met with the Governor's Office, the Secretary of IDOT, and United States Senator Mark Kirk's staff regarding the issue, and had developed a regional consensus including elected officials covering all of DeKalb County and much of northwest Kane County in support of the the DeKalb County-southern route/City of Genoa position. He also covered in the Power point slides the redevelopment of the former Junkyard as the Lloyd Garden Center, expansion of Prairie State Winery, the Corner Grill expansion, new businesses such as Genoa Pharmacy, Cademon Brewing, Latsis Bakery, The Trading Post, new Wild Harvest Restaurant, a new business in the rear of the Coldwell Banker Real Estate Office the new Library, Genoa Motors expansion, Economic Development Incentive Agreement for Al Browne Chevrolet, Energym acquiring the Prairie Ridge Point Shopping Center, and the largest Industrial expansion in many decades in Genoa represented by the large Custom Aluminum expansion. He also noted the State's approval of the Enterprise Zone, the City's Economic Incentive Policy and its use of the Low Interest Loan program, the new Website, the new Economic Development/Community Video, and the City's provision of data on available sites and their amenities, which through assistance provided by DCEDC, are marketed in DCEDC's online inventory. Mr. Misurelli noted that the EDC members could be very helpful in connections with the business community in identifying business looking to relocate, expand, possibly with their second location, or suppliers looking for distribution or manufacturing locations which the City could follow up on.

Ms. Tobinon reported on the success of the Volksfest and the craft beer and wine festival and related events held that weekend, and plans to make this a continuing annual program. Ms. Johnson provided a report on Chamber events including upcoming Celebrate the Season and the Annual dinner.

Mayor Vicary noted that with the new EDC members aboard he was charging them with finding new businesses through planning for business expansion.

Mr. Maniar noted the strength of the downtown and its ability to emerge as a destination location. Mr. Harris suggested looking at leakage reports and having landlord information on rental space rates and details, seeking the voice of the community, engaging in a fundraising effort, and suggested a sports complex at the former 84 Lumber facility. Ms. Egger inquired as to the county Visitors Bureau efforts at promotions. Mr. Harris suggested establishing a not for profit agency such as Rockford had. He also noted the Synchronist computer based program.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Johnson moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

November 5, 2015 Meeting

Chair Carolyn Tobinson called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:05 PM.

On roll call, members Carolyn Tobinson, Kim Egger, and Phil Harris were present, Krissy Johnson arrived at 12:06. Michael Cirone, 3 Roses Realty; Paul Borek, DCEDC; Kevin McArtor, Resource Bank; Gwen Garza, NB&T; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Ms. Egger moved and Mr. Harris seconded to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 regular meeting. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

Chair Tobinson began with a discussion on background relative to the SOARing Project noting the surveys, focus groups and other efforts, culminating in 4 areas, events, infrastructure, downtown, and recreation. Mr. McArtor added further background including the presentation to the City Council, and the Foundation involvement. Mr. Borek reported that the County was launching a strategic planning process for DeKalb County Economic Development.

It was suggested that Chair Tobinson and Mr. Misurelli would obtain summary information on the Strategic Planning process conducted through the SOARing effort and provide this to members prior to the next EDC meeting.

Mr. Harris suggested the possibility of establishing a separate organization. He felt that it would be able to do fundraising that was not possible as a City committee.

Mr. Borek explained the DCEDC site inventory, marketing and related efforts. Mr. Harris asked about the budget and framework of DCEDC. Mr. Borek provided information including memberships, budget, increased marketing planned with approval of the Enterprise Zone and related information.

Ms. Tobinson questioned why a separate organization would be needed and Ms. Egger asked what the benefit would be for local business. Ms. Johnson asked why would it benefit breaking off from the City. Mr. Harris suggested memberships could be sold to generate funds. Mr. McArtor noted at the start of the strategic planning effort that issue arose and it was determined it would be more effective to operate within the City EDC. Mr. Harris suggested getting First Midwest Group involved. At this point it was 12:59 and Ms. Egger had to depart the meeting.

Mr. Borek reported that DCEO had advised that they would be certifying the Enterprise Zone so DCEDC would launch a major marketing effort after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Mr. Misurelli reported on the regional consensus developed for the Genoa Amtrak route with the recent signatures of the Mayors of Elgin and Pingree Grove added to the elected officials covering all of DeKalb County and much of northwest Kane County in support of the DeKalb County-southern route/City of Genoa position. He displayed a map

exhibiting this significant geographic coverage from Rockford all the way into Cook County. He noted Moscato's had opened in their new location on Main Street, a permit had been issued and work begun by Energym for build out of 4500 square feet, a major portion of the Prairie Ridge Point Shopping Center, Vapor Physics had opened in a long vacant space adjacent to Everything Floral, and that a new buyer was planning a new commercial business in the former Sherrie Perdue Dental Office building.

Ms. Jonson reported on behalf of the Chamber the State of the City presentation upcoming on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and plans for Celebrate the Season.

There being no further business for discussion, Mr. Harris moved and Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

# CITY OF GENOA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### *MINUTES*

December 3, 2015 Meeting

Chair Carolyn Tobinon called the regular meeting of the City of Genoa Economic Development Commission to order at 12:05 PM.

On roll call, members Carolyn Tobinon, Kim Egger, Krissy Johnson, and Parag Maniar were present. Michael Cirone, 3 Roses Realty; Rob Mason and Craig Mathey, NB&T Bank; Cortney Strohacker, Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce; and Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa, were also present.

Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Egger seconded to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 regular meeting. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.

Chair Tobinon began noting that as indicated at the last meeting, comprehensive summary information on the Strategic Planning process conducted through the SOARing effort was provided to members before this meeting. A discussion followed on background relative to the SOARing Project noting the surveys, focus groups and other efforts, culminating in 4 areas, events, Industry/infrastructure, downtown, and recreation. Chair Tobinon noted that the efforts to have a Downtown Business group to coordinate issues that previously could be considered through Main Street would likely be pursued after the holidays. A hard drive with GMS data on property owners had recently been obtained by the Chamber. She suggested with the holiday period coming up, that members review the extensive material provided over the next few weeks. Relative to the Industry area, Mr. Misurelli explained the Enterprise Zone that would become effective January 1, 2016, and noted the site data maintained for Genoa sites by DCEDC with their marketing capability, and further that the DCEDC plans to engage in an intensive marketing effort with the new Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Maniar noted the issue of workforce development including internships and educational opportunities particularly in the pharmacy area. Chair Tobinon noted the efforts by Custom Aluminum with the GK Schools and career development by the Kishwaukee Educational Cooperative. Mr. Misurelli added that DCEDC had made this a particular focus, along with efforts by KEC and the GK School District. Chair Tobinon suggested that this be part of the Industry/Infrastructure area as a topic and goal. It was suggested that this be discussed further in an upcoming meeting. Mr. Misurelli advised he would contact Joe Burgess from the GK School District, Paul Borek and Gene Fogle of DCEDC, and Bruce Griffith of KEC to attend upcoming meetings.

Mr. Misurelli reported on the continued progress regarding the Downtown TIF effort, achieving through the City's consultant Teska and Associates verification and documentation that the area would be able to qualify under the criteria in State Statutes for a much more desirable designation of Conservation Area, noting that this was a key milestone in the process. He noted that the City Council had adopted an ordinance providing for an additional year extension for 2016 for the residential impact fee incentive program, and that the City Council had amended the City Code providing for an added Class A liquor License which would accommodate the new owner of the Sherrie

Perdue Dental Office building who wanted to renovate the former Dental Office into an Irish style Pub.

Ms. Strohacker reported on behalf of the Chamber plans for Celebrate the Season, the Chamber Ugly Sweater/Christmas Party on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Annual dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, that NB&T had merged with First Midwest Bank and Kishwaukee Health System was joining the Northwestern Health System. Kim Egger advised that Heartland Bank had acquired American National Bank.

There being no further business for discussion, Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Egger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 PM. Upon voice vote, all members present voted aye.