

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2025 AT 7:30 A.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Stengren – Chairman
Tony Guido
Heather Larson
Michael Mulder
Kerri Oots
Marc Poulos
Brian Roginski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tonia Etoh
Terry Iverson
Ellen Para
John Toliopoulos
Andi Ruhl

STAFF PRESENT:

Michael Mertes – Business Development Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

Martin Bauer, Resident
Mary Ellen Graf, Township High School District 214
Keith Moens, Resident

Call to Order

Chairman Andrew Stengren called the meeting to order at 7:33 AM.

Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2024

The meeting minutes of November 20, 2024 Arlington Economic Alliance meeting were reviewed.

MARC POULOS MOVED AND HEATHER LARSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT NOVEMBER 20, 2024 ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Development Update

The Village Board approved continuing the Sounds of Summer concert series on Thursday evenings only, from June through August. A community survey, with nearly 500 responses, favored keeping the Sounds of Summer dates on Thursday evenings only. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was approved between taxing districts and ownership of the Arlington Park property. The MOU can be accessed on the Village website.

Mr. Roginski asked about the Alfresco start date for 2025, and Mr. Mertes confirmed that it would be May 2. Chair Stengren asked that the Alliance be informed regarding significant developments in the Village. Ms. Larson asked about the status of the Arlington Gateway project, Mr. Mertes said that construction is underway on the first phase of the project, which includes approximately 300 residential units and 25,000 square feet of commercial space. Regarding Mr. Mulder's inquiry about the status of Arlington 425, Mr. Mertes replied that the Village Board approved an extension of the developer's zoning entitlements until May, and that the developer has submitted for permits

Economic Alliance Work Plan – 2025

Mr. Mertes introduced a draft work plan for the Economic Alliance, based on Commissioners' suggestions from previous meetings. The two key items focused on were continuing "notes of appreciation" to existing businesses, and holding multiple events in support of small businesses including a "State of the Village" address by the Mayor. Chair Stengren supports the "notes of appreciation" effort, while Ms. Larson added that some communities call new businesses. Mr. Mertes explained that he provides a welcome packet to new businesses.

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Ribbon cuttings are typically done through the Chamber, but businesses can also do a ribbon cutting on their own volition.

Chair Stengren suggested media coverage and asked about live broadcasting of the "State of the Village" address. Mr. Mertes explained that an invite to the program would be sent out to the Village's business contacts, and that he would look into a live broadcasting option. While the Village has equipment to record meetings in the Board room, it's likely that the room wouldn't be large enough to hold the full audience for such an event. Mr. Poulos noted that addresses to the Rotary are usually well-attended.

Mr. Mulder asked if other speakers are being considered, and Ms. Larson recommended just having the Mayor as the featured speaker, in line with similar engagements in other communities. Also, breakfast or lunch programs are typical for a "State of the Village" address. Chair Stengren anticipates the program growing and evolving in the future.

KERRI OOTS MOVED AND HEATHER LARSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2025 ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE WORK PLAN. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Other Business and Public Comment

Ms. Larson discussed *Restaurant Week* for which Meet Chicago Northwest is conducting a \$50,000 marketing campaign. There is no cost for restaurants to take part. Last year, 25 Arlington Heights restaurants participated. The event runs from February 28 through March 9. Chair Stengren suggested that the Alliance could help promote *Restaurant Week* in the future.

Mr. Guido discussed the Chicago Auto Show which runs from February 8-17 at McCormick Place. Chair Stengren asked the Commission to think of ways to promote or assist various segments of the Arlington Heights business community, and asked the Commissioners to think about ways the Alliance can help promote their respective industries. Mr. Mulder suggested having various industry weeks or events, and video recording segments (such as interviews with business owners) then putting the content on social media.

During public comment, Mr. Bauer stated that he has been attending various Village Commission meetings and mentioned his appreciation for the involvement by community residents and business representatives.

Adjournment

HEATHER LARSON MOVED AND MICHAEL MULDER SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.

Andrew Stengren, Chair
Arlington Economic Alliance

Prepared by Department of Planning & Community Development