

## City of Dunkirk Economic Development Meeting

Tuesday, October 18 2016

**Present:** Councilman Gonzales, Councilman Wolzysn, Councilwoman Szakula, Rebecca Yannus (Development Director), Christina Lincoln,, Nicole Waite, Sean Connolly (City Attorney) , Monica Kemp, Mike Civileto, Nicole Gugino, and Councilman Donald Williams.

### **Economic Report:**

The meeting was called to order by Councilman Gonzalez at 4:05 PM. To start the meeting off, Rebecca Yannus reported on the possibility of the dog park. Because Miss Yannus' generation are animal lovers and having children later in life. Dog parks are a fantastic "selling point" to get people to come into the community. Although this topic has been brought up numerous times, right now the main goal is for the development department to obtain are locations that can be agreed upon by both council and the City of Dunkirk's residents. Some locations that they are interested in are: Cedar Beach (which was later confirmed by councilwoman Szakula that the Health Department said this location would be a health issue as to "spill off" from the waste of the dogs would inevitably get into Lake Erie, Pangolin (with Councilwoman Szakula quickly pointed out that NO Dunkirk resident would like this to be so close to their home), areas of land at Wright Park, Point Gratiot, the Armory, West Fourth Street, Grant Avenue, Koszuico Park, or the Humane Society.

According the Attorney Sean Connolly, generally dog owners are responsible people, so the issues at hand as of now include but are not limited to the fact that Dunkirk needs to own the land, that the city's insurance company needs to be on-board with the idea, and that city ordinances may need to be changed in order to inforce certain rules and regulations that will need to be followed at the park by all users. Councilman Gonzalez wants to be certain that the city is not responsible for any liability issues, as well as concerns that most to not all the people interested in this dog park aren't even residents of the city. Sure, people may drive 25 minutes to use the park, but overall, how will that help the city?

City resident Mike Civelletto also talked about the advantages of a dog park and agreed to some of the locations presented as ideal spots.

Councilwoman Szakula brought up that after a lengthy conversation with Monica Kemp the evening before, the best path to take at this point is for a resolution to be made that a committee of about 5 members (one councilperson, Purina, human society, Mayor Rosas, and a member from the Health Department) to hammer out the details that would need to be present in order for the community to be responsible for a dog park. Councilman Wolyzyn agreed that at this point this would be the best solution versus meeting over and over again and getting nowhere.

**CBGD Report-** Christine Lincoln spoke for the CDBG. There are a \$125 Zombie properties or blighted properties Grant available to the city. A survey needs to be conducted to the housing needs before the funds would be available. They need to go through the public hearing process and funds are not available immediately. EST would be next year, and hoping the process is well underway within the next couple of months. Councilman Wolyzyn suggested that they get ahold of some of the free organization for some of the mapping process to conduct the survey off of. Chautauqua Opportunities, CRIC, Stel, Landbank (working on an ap), may already have information on the blighted properties. Councilwoman Szakula asked what is expected to be done with these properties once confirmed that they are blighted. Councilman Wolzyn asked what about the money that is left? There isn't a prediction of having a lot of money left, but possibilities included: creating for an ap for AI, iPads, and some other items that can be purchased with a full list to be given at a later time. No money will be provided for demolition or revitalization of the property. The data can really go for any number of things.

Brownsfield is in phase 2. Open meeting at 5:30 tomorrow to present and provide information on what a "Brownsfield" is. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Farmers Market was a success and ended September 28. They would like to extend this into October next year. Over 3,000 people were serviced and because of this the SNAP program can qualify for the "Double Up" program. It was a huge success running an activity the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each of the months such as a family day, live music, and food trucks for lunch. They would like to do this again next year and invite more vendors.

The contract for Striders was just signed and not even given to the Mayor as of yet.

Hoyt Street Hydrants- 2 tested and took care of remaining- replaced 13 old legs.

An emergency demolition was just approved for 35 St. Hedwig's Street.

Councilman Gonzales wanted to make sure the reports from CRIC were given. He is interested in finding out how many people were actually helped with the first time home buyer program.

Councilman Williams asked if the city could use CDBG money to purchase fire hydrants since they purchased some for the Hoyt Street Project. They will talk to HUD and see what's leftover.

Brooks's presentation was presented to the board from Brooks. 3 locations were submitted; the former brooks locomotive sight, a parcel on Willowbrook, or a parcel by Holy Trinity. The board and architects seemed very impressed with presentation and have even called back with questions. The main focus point of the advantage of staying in the city was our infrastructure of the city and focusing on how the city needs them to stay. Site will be chosen in the next week. It would be advantageous for Brooks to stay in the city. Fingers crossed.

Excitement was around the idea of having Small Business Saturday the weekend after Thanksgiving. Area businesses on Central Avenue will be asked to host pop-up vendors to provide goods and services to the public to come and enjoy an afternoon in the city. Food trucks, live music, holiday festivities will also be going on.

**Festival Report-** Hector is out of town. No festival report was provided. One will hopefully be provided at the next meeting.

**Boardwalk Report-** \*Councilwoman Szakula reminded Councilman Gonzales of the workshop coming up so the Boardwalk report needed to be tabled.

**Motion to adjourn:** Stacy Szakula 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Woloszyn.