

**Cicero Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 2nd, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Members in attendance: Joe Cox, Jacob Everett, Sarah Buckner, Gene McDonald

Others/Alternates in attendance: N/A

Town Councilors in attendance: Chad Amos

Cox called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

Everett updated on RFI activity. Three groups likely with a fourth interested. Would like proposals from at least 3. Most interest is focused on Jackson St. (former Utilities) and will likely be retail with mix-use residential above. Suggested discussing strategy for meeting with developers (will update).

McDonald updated on RFI activity. Also sent to 3 groups and clarified that we are only looking for ideas from developers at this point. Confirmed 2/28/22 due date for proposals. Gene discussed residential restrictions and potential parking constraints of the proposed area on Jackson St.

Amos discussed the potential availability of another property along Jackson St. and if Town should have control or leave to developer. Agreed that Town control is best and likely via purchase option. Everett suggested RDC for potential acquisition and discussed general strategy. Amos will follow up.

Amos updated that drainage issues at SR19 and 216th St. will not be remediated until 2023 due to survey issues.

Amos updated on the 236th/US 31 development. Explained about county-controlled development on the West side of US 31 and the potential code restrictions that we may face on the East side of US 31. Discussed how annexation out to US 31 may look if pursued. Everett and Amos discussed TIF on infrastructure such as fiber lines. Conversation was theoretical. Amos advised of planning meeting in March and that County will operate and maintain waste water facility on the West side of US 31.

Buckner presented white paper outline for potential Mermaid Festival. Discussed funding needs and grant pursual. Buckner will explore funding further. Also explained Art strategy and economic development.

Amos approved beginning research and creating a presentation for Town Council consideration. Amos also advised that the initial reaction from council was not necessarily warm.

Amos updated on open EDC seat as Presidential Appointment. Looking for candidates.

Cox discussed being contacted by a Managing Partner of Indiana on Tap to discuss potential building inventory or location for a brewery. Discussed lack of building inventory, but possible congruence with current development RFI. Will stay in contact.

Cox discussed contact with Ball State Media program regarding a Town spotlight project. Project is in motion and will include about 15 community leaders and department heads. Buckner to run point through Hamilton County Tourism. Will pull Buckner in to email loop.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.