



Geneva Economic Development Commission  
Thursday, March 13, 2014, 8:00 AM  
City Hall Council Chambers, 109 James Street

Present: Chairman Robert Mann and Commissioners, Brian Kay, Patrick Neary, David Quillen, Paul Ruby, Thomas Burgess. Also present: City Administrator Mary McKittrick, Economic Development Director Ellen Divita, Business Development Specialist Paul Evans, Economic Development Intern Neal Reeves, business owner and resident Christine Kiefer, Todd Latham, School District #304. Absent: Commissioner Tom Burgess, Cathy Charhut, and Scott Lebin.

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Chairman Mann.

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – There were none.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Commissioner Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Kay to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2014 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

**Review of draft public survey regarding Business District needs and potential projects.** The Commission reviewed the survey document and asked for these changes and inclusions in the mailing to the community within the proposed district:

- Include a map of the study area and identify why it was chosen – it was chosen after discussion between representatives of all City Departments and the Consultant. The area studied is basically the boundary of the original Business District which expired in 2013 plus the recreational parcels along the River. The latter were included because the downtown master plan calls for greater connections to the river and recreational amenities downtown, including Island Park and the Bike Path.
- Note that funds generated by a sales tax could be used to leverage other funding sources such as State programs.
- In order to better understand/pinpoint interests and interpret survey results, these four questions will be broken out into individual questions:
  - public pavilion/civic space and public bathrooms
  - parking decks and surface lots
  - utility system and improvements to individual buildings
  - streetscape and directional signage system
- The last paragraph identifying other communities using BD's will be moved to the introduction.

- Building owner and Business owner assistance projects will reference low interest loans, not grants, though latter could be created. Low or no interest loans would create a pool that the City could use to assist business beyond the life of a business district.
- The public meeting will be held on 4/29/14, and continued on 4/30/14 if needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kay, second by Commissioner Neary to approve the survey as discussed. An amendment was offered and accepted to allow the Chairman to sign off on the final survey. The amended motion passed.

The next meeting will be April 29, 2014, at 7:00 PM.

- IV.** Motion by Commissioner Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Kay, the meeting adjourned at 9:14.



Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Divita