

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
ECONOMIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
March 25, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jesse Avitia
Leon Valdez
Ezell Foster

STAFF:

Richard Morrisroe, Legal
Douglas Powers, Planner
Ateria Allen, Secretary
Carla Morgan, Legal

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Jesse Avitia, Leon Valdez
Ezell Foster

Staff Present: Richard Morrisroe, Legal Counsel
Carla Morgan, Corporation Counsel
Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary
Douglas Powers, City Planner

MR. AVITIA: We have got a full Board and I'd like to welcome Ateria as our secretary. I'd like to call the Economic Development Commission meeting of Thursday, March 25, '21 to order.

Next, approval of minutes. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, February 25, 2021?

MR. VALDEZ: So moved.

MR. FOSTER: Second.

MR. AVITIA: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. AVITIA: Motion carries.

Since we don't have any Old Business, we are going to move on to New Business. Before we do that, are we going to be keeping Ateria on a permanent basis?

1 MR. POWERS: So there hasn't been any
2 decision. She has been working with Engineering
3 Department, but has promised that the person that comes
4 on Board as recording secretary, she will assist in
5 training them to bring them up to speed. That's
6 currently where things are.

7 MR. AVITIA: She is very necessary, very
8 important addition to the Board.

9 MR. POWERS: You are absolutely correct.

10 MR. AVITIA: Let's move on to New
11 Business. Since we have a full Board, I would like to
12 initiate the nomination for new officers for the year
13 2021.

14 MR. VALDEZ: Point of order, if I may.
15 I'd like to make a motion that Mr. Avitia stay on as
16 president and Ezell Foster take over as vice-president.
17 So I am looking to the future, for next year, Ezell can
18 take over as president and give Mr. Avitia a break, and
19 I will be vice-president; if that's okay with everybody.

20 MR. FOSTER: I will abstain.

21 MR. AVITIA: I agree. So we'll retain
22 the present order of today. So you're nominating Ezell
23 for vice-president then?

24 MR. VALDEZ: Yes.

25 MR. AVITIA: Ezell, are you okay with
that?

MR. FOSTER: No, I am not okay with that.
I am abstaining.

MR. AVITIA: Let it be recorded that I
will retain president for the next year. Ezell Foster
will be vice-president, and Leon Valdez will continue to
be a member.

MR. FOSTER: I don't want to be
vice-president. I abstained.

MR. AVITIA: You are not taking it?

MR. FOSTER: No.

1 MR. VALDEZ: Then I will take the duties
2 as vice-president again. We will retain the same
3 officers.

3 MR. AVITIA: Roll call.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
5 Opposed: None

6 MR. AVITIA: Motion carries.
7 Next item is New Business. We have
8 approval of Facade Resolution number 2021-62.

9 MR. POWERS: We would actually like to
10 table that item till the next Board meeting. There is
11 still a few items that need to be addressed before we
12 can present to fully ratify the resolution to the
13 Economic Development Commission.

14 MR. AVITIA: Okay. So this resolution
15 still needs to be before the City Council?

16 MR. POWERS: That is correct.

17 MR. AVITIA: The suggestion is that we
18 table it?

19 MR. POWERS: Yes. I am requesting that
20 you table it until the next meeting, the next time we
21 can meet.

22 MR. AVITIA: Let's table this resolution
23 for the next meeting.

24 Next, do we have any comments on the
25 Redevelopment Commission minutes that we received from
February 2, 16th and March 2nd, 2021? (None)

MR. MORRISROE: There were a lot of
pages, about 150, but it was good that we had them. And
we'd like to thank Doug and Ateria for having them in
the packet. It does help to have the hard copy. It's a
little bit timely and expensive to do so, so we'd like
to thank you for that.

MR. AVITIA: Any comments? (None)

Here again, I'd like to reiterate
that when we receive the copies, what I normally do, I
look at them and I go through the items. And the
minutes actually help us out, at least the Board any

1 way, to determine what is going on in East Chicago as
2 far as economic development is concerned. Here we talk
3 about the development of an entire block on Broadway and
4 transfer of property between East Chicago and
5 Redevelopment Commission between the City. And I think
6 you, as City Planner, have something to do with that.
7 Are you involved pretty deeply in that? Would you make
8 some comments on that?

9 MR. POWERS: So currently one of the
10 projects that you might be interested in is the new
11 development that's occurring on Broadway, just east of
12 Pulaski Road. That there is the mix use development
13 that's suppose to be opening up, beginning of August is
14 what the proposed date is now.

15 Another thing for you to look
16 forward to in the next meeting is we'll have to have a
17 public hearing in regards to the Lakeshore Manor because
18 they came here a little over a year ago, and they are
19 going -- their attorney is going to come and present
20 before you at that time.

21 MR. AVITIA: Because you are looking for
22 commercial development in that area, aren't you?

23 MR. POWERS: That's correct. Broadway
24 and Main is commercial.

25 MR. AVITIA: And would you keep us
apprehended if anything is going on along that route?

MR. POWERS: Absolutely. So, currently
we haven't had any since our last meeting, there hasn't
been any new businesses or anything started, and there
hasn't been anything brought before the Tech Committee
as of yet. There are a few things in the works, as I
see the plans that were going through Tech and it will
be brought before you at that time. As of right now it
would just be rumors.

MR. AVITIA: Again, we appreciate the
fact that we are receiving the minutes. It does help us
as far as the Board is concerned to determine where
economic development is going.

We don't have any other comments
from the Board members? (None)
Public Comments. We have no public,
so we can move on.

Commissioner comments, Leon?

1 MR. VALDEZ: Since my retirement, I don't
2 want to have any correspondence as far as e-mail, sent
3 to a business address. If you would kindly document my
4 personal e-mail address. (Personal E-mail address
5 given.) If you send me anything, kindly send it to that
6 e-mail address.

7 MR. AVITIA: Also Ezell Foster's e-mail
8 too. Any other comments or business from the Board?
9 (None)

10 Mr. Morrisroe, you have anything?

11 MR. MORRISROE: Not at this time. I
12 think the fact that you take the time to read the
13 Redevelopment minutes is a tribute. It's a source of
14 information, even if it's routine transactions for the
15 Redevelopment Board. They are involved in a lot of
16 properties and improvement of properties, and some of
17 the services to maintain properties, and to assist
18 tenants where they live, such as over near Guthrie, and
19 they do a whole lot of things.

20 And I think, Ezell at one time was
21 with Redevelopment, so you have an appreciation for the
22 scope of what they do. And if you have questions, we'll
23 try to bring them to their attention for the answer.

24 MR. AVITIA: Thank you. Let's move on.
25 Legal Counsel, do we have any comments?

MS. MORGAN: No, just that me being
backed up is why the Facade Resolution needs to be
delayed. I apologize for that. We'll have it for you
next meeting.

MR. AVITIA: All right. Thank you. Next
meeting will be on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Can I have
a motion to adjourn?

MR. VALDEZ: So moved.

MR. FOSTER: Second.

MR. AVITIA: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. AVITIA: Motion carries. Meeting
adjourned.

***** Meeting Adjourned *****

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Thursday
March 25, 2021

Approved and signed April 22, 2021

Jesse Avita
Jesse Avita, President

Leon Valdez
Leon Valdez, Vice-president

Ezell Foster
Ezell Foster, Member

Ateria Allen
Ateria Allen, Secretary