

**THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
BUSINESS ALLIANCE COMMISSION (BAC)
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Meeting Room A
10025 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights, IL**

Committee Members in attendance – Chuck Daily, Bill Poletti, Robert Triplett, Michael Hagen, Richard Avdoian, Don Barkley & Van Johnson

Committee Members absent – Robert Triplett, Charles Kassly & Samantha Carter

Other Aldermen and Elected Officials in attendance – Pat Baeske

Staff in attendance – Paul Ellis

Recorder – Becky Thompson, Wendi Gorney

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes

Michael Hagen made a motion to approve the November 20, 2018 minutes. Seconded by Richard Avdoian. Motion passed on voice vote.

Economic Development Director's Report

Director Ellis presented his report. The Commission discussed the following:

- Approved Economic Development Strategy (i5 Group) at City Council
- Michael Hagen announced Sears will be closed by the end of March. Discounts of 10%-40% have already started.
- Sears still owns the building, mall will try to purchase the building to implement their plan that is already in place for the building. They plan to add venues, other than retail, that will draw more people and encourage shopping at the mall and in the area.
- H&M should start remodel February 15, 2019 and are hoping to be complete by August/September 2019. Forever 21 will be moving, because of the H&M, and are hoping remodel should be complete in August 2019.
- Announcement regarding tenancy of Sears is anticipated to be the mid-end of 2019
- City currently has 400,000 sq. ft. in transition:
 - Aldi – opens January 24, 2019
 - Urban Air will be opening
 - Vatterott College has closed
 - US Bank building – under contract. New owner will tear down existing building and replace with retail space.
 - Paul Ellis announced the need and opportunity to straighten out the frontage road by Toys R Us/Babies R Us/US Bank for easier access
- Four Points – new owner will be updating the facility
- Richard Avdoian expressed the need for small businesses to have access to small offices for them to use/rent for small or graduating fees. He would like to promote any such spaces at the Small Business Conference in May 2019.

- Paul Ellis introduced Wendi Gorney as new Administrative Support person
- Metro East Business Incubator has received \$260,000 in support from State/Grants/Contractors
- Paul will be attending ICSC on January 20, 2019

Monthly Revenue Reports

Director Ellis presented the sales tax report. The City is down for December 0.7%, or \$3,796.65 and year to date is up 0.30%, or \$8,756.12.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment 2:51 p.m.

Submitted By:


Recorder