

Village of Skokie
Economic Development Commission

Thursday, December 7, 2023
8:30 A.M.

Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie IL, Conference Room D&E

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUOURM
- II. INTRODUCTIONS
 - a. Members of the Economic Development Commission
 - b. Jeremy Gleason, New Economic Development Commissioner
 - c. Carol White, Economic Vitality Coordinator
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Skokie – Anti-Litter Business Efforts (See attached document)
 - b. Report on Manufacturing Day Update & Next Steps
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Economic Vitality Strategy Update
 - b. Main Street Project Update
 - c. Meeting Schedule for Economic Development Commission
 - d. Reconsideration of Video Gaming in Skokie (See attached document)
- V. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Village Staff
 - b. EDC Members
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission is scheduled for Tuesday **January 9, 2023 at 8:30 A.M.** in CONFERENCE ROOM D+E at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton, Skokie, IL

**Memorandum
Community Development Department**

TO: Chair & Members of the Economic Development Commission

FROM: Johanna Nyden, Community Development Director

DATE: November 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Response to Plan for Litter Reduction and Potential Business Engagement

Recommendation:

Staff seeks direction on the Economic Development Commission's engagement in potential anti-litter campaigns in the Village in coordination with the business community.

Summary:

At the last Economic Development Commission meeting, the group discussed several opportunities for collaborations with the Village's business community to promote elimination of trash and litter in business districts. Jeff Berman attended and provided an overview of the historic efforts the Village has undertaken to address the problem. Several ideas that were discussed included:

- Potential bans or limitations on plastic bags, plastic straws, or other commonly generated trash;
- Creation of an anti-litter pledge for businesses;
- Regular audits of businesses that have been historically identified as generating significant litter from uses (restaurants, Amazon facilities, etc.);
- Expansion and promotion of Village coordinated clean-up programs to encourage more frequent litter elimination efforts; and
- Ongoing educational campaigns to highlight the issues associated with litter.

Staff has reviewed and discussed these opportunities internally with other Village Departments. The following is noted:

- The Village's adopted Sustainability Plan highlights several areas where reduction of plastic bags and plastic film should be addressed. In the Waste Management section, WM 1-3 calls for a Zero Single Use Plastic, Zero Waste policy for Village operations that outlines increasing incremental annual waste reduction goals charting a path to Zero Waste appropriate to the findings of the Municipal Operations Waste Audit. In a later phase, WM1-8 suggests studying options to decrease plastic bag and film usage and identify opportunities for plastic bag/film recycling.
- The Village can establish an anti-litter pledge for businesses to take. Businesses can commit to regular/daily inspection and clean-up of their property and a prescribed area around their properties. The Village can promote this program and participants on the

Village's website and provide businesses basic tools and equipment to pick-up litter (first box of gloves, 5-gallon, and a trash grabber).

- Currently staff inspects the exterior of restaurants and other properties on a complaint basis. Staff can start to conduct on-site inspections of restaurants. It is estimated that there are between 60 to 75 businesses that are identified as having carry-out or drive-through services that can be reviewed for compliance with site plan approval and other property maintenance issues related to litter production. Each inspection would on average take 30-40 minutes (this includes preparation of materials, travel, and actual inspection). Additional work for any follow-up could take additional time depending on the course of action (an additional 30 to 60 minutes). If corrections to litter management would need to be made, additional on-site inspections would take place (an additional 30 to 40 minutes). Based on staff resources and availability, staff can inspect 3 to 5 businesses per month in an ongoing basis.
- The Village spring cleaning event Clean Green Skokie in spring is very strong in participation. We can explore expansion of this into other times of the year as well as creation of a tiered recognition program of adopters of streets that commit to three or more cleanings annually. Staff has additionally highlighted that single clean-up events that are not associated with adopt-a-street for groups looking for service projects (Scouts, schools, neighborhood groups) are popular. This opportunity could be more widely promoted to encourage participation and the Village could highlight these groups and thanks for their work.

**Memorandum
Community Development Department**

TO: Chair & Members of the Economic Development Commission

FROM: Johanna Nyden, Community Development Director

DATE: November 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Discussion of Video Gaming

Summary:

There has been a recent inquiry into the potential re-consideration of video gaming in business establishments. At the July 2023 meeting of the Economic Development Commission a local business owner provided public comment that this revenue stream would be important for his business; additionally, he cited area communities that currently offer video gaming as potentially competitive to Skokie businesses.

In recent years, the Economic Development Commission has discussed the matter and has previously voted unanimously to not move forward with consideration of video gaming in Skokie.

The breakdown of communities in close proximity and/or comparable to Skokie and their decisions regarding video gaming is included in the table below.

Community	Yes/No
Evanston	No
Lincolnwood	No
Niles	Yes
Wilmette	No
Glenview	No
Morton Grove	Yes
Park Ridge	No
Des Plaines	No
Northfield	No
Arlington Heights	No
Deerfield	No

Source: Illinois Gaming Board

Staff seeks direction on a next step and can conduct additional research on this matter if there is interest in reconsideration of the previous decision to not pursue video gaming in Skokie.