

Block Grant Program. The EDA packet included an intent from Ryan Castle to offer the building owner low interest financing of 3.875% to offer community collaboration for the project.

Community Center/Community Facility

Connie presented the outline of a plan to construct a 40' x 80" train style pavilion. The board weighed in with suggestions that included:

EDA Pavilion notes:

The overview of pledged and non-pledged sales tax dollars was reviewed by the EDA board, to date there are \$139,000 dollars in sales tax funds that can be spent on the six (6) strategic plan projects.

Connie presented the pavilion project, comments from the board included:

- Concerns not to let the half a percent sale tax fund be spent as nickel and dime projects without a return on investment, or projects that dilutes the impact of using the funds for economic development
- The increase in size of the pavilion to allow for 400 people appears to be good planning for the size of community events
- The concern about parking and working with the Legion's existing parking should be addressed, should the Legion unused lots be used for parking, should the Dahl Home be condemned or purchased for parking
- The idea of a warming house was well accepted for casual skating, with the sport of hockey remaining at Westside Park. This is for fear of damaging the new structure. Perhaps the school could build a new warming house for the pavilion
- Thinking ahead about infrastructure like the water station is important to the design and long term use, would it be acceptable to the committee use a Design - Build firm to design the structure and provide a cost estimate for the project, Connie would like recommendations of design - build firms
- Keeping the cupolas as seen on the MN Design team drawing was a good idea, for overall design, members prefer the exposed trusses and rail road theme as opposed to the drawing
- Will the Eagle as shown on the design team drawing be a part of the design
- There was concern about chairs and tables and how that could come later on
- Given that the County is considering moving, should the project be located at the park across from Higgins, however would that spot offer enough parking and how would liquor sales be handled was a concern preventing the location across from Higgins to not work out as an alternative location. Should the committee learn what the County is going to do with their building?
- It was explained that the Community Gardens would remain as a part of the community, but be relocated
- There was concern that the project was being rushed, it was asked if there is a rush to spend the ½ percent sales tax funds, the reply is that there is not a deadline for spending the ½ percent sale tax money, and that there was likely NOT to be another round of funding to add more money for the project
- Briefly mentioned, should Eyota add to their city sale tax for the community project - likely not well received it works in Rochester not likely in Eyota

The board asked if the project is a rush, Connie indicated that she did not think so and that given the cost would work with a design build firm to present a design, scope document, and cost estimates for the facility.

Sponsor(s) for the Eyota Farmer's market potential \$3,650 gap:

The idea of business sponsors and a local dinner was discussed, the Director will continue to work on ideas to close the gap. The board is pleased with the market and opportunity for a weekly community gathering featuring local foods.

Director's update and informational pieces:

The board received a one page and an additional full report of the status of the strategic plan, the summary included:

2017 Strategic Plan Implementation – Status Report

Rochester Sales Tax Provided: Account grew to approximately \$212,000

Rochester Sales Tax Assigned: \$72,500 (\$57,500 + \$15,000)

Rochester Sales Tax Un-Assigned: \$139,500

6 Strategic Goals for the Half a Percent Sales Tax - brief summary

Goal #1 Commercial Building

To date: \$15,000 of the sale tax money has been used to attract a dentist to an existing commercial building

To date: Burt's Meats Expansion (USDA and MN Value Added Grants \$98,000 + façade improvement grant of up to \$10,000), Perry Dental, and Arbor Gardens Memory Care Expansion

Pending: Child Care Center New Construction Project –using TIF and land donation

Additional funds have not been assigned to a medical clinic building, which was the number one goal

Goal #2 Community Center/Pavilion Planning

To date: No funds have been assigned

Goal #3 Business Incentive Program

To date: See goal #1 - \$15,000 of the Rochester sales tax money is assigned

To date: This goal can be tied back to Goal #1, Burt's Meats Expansion & Perry Dental

Goal #4 Main Street Revitalization

To date: \$57,500 has been assigned to this goal (8 - \$2,500 grants, and up to 5 - \$7,500 matching grants)

Goal #5 Regional and Inner City Trail Connections / Main Street

To Date: The EDA was reimbursed DNR funds of \$44,000, which was assigned for future trails. No sales tax money has been assigned to this project

Goal #6 Arbor Gardens Expansion

To date sales tax dollars have not been assigned. Memory Care was added, a building capital expenses work sheet created for future planning, the bond payment was reduced, and the building renovations were completed using the City Enterprise Fund

The EDA Director has submitted a grant request to DEED for grant funds that would assist with equipment purchases for Little Eagles Child Care Center

The job Shadow program was a success the report indicates that 14 student were placed in job shadowing positions, well over half the students were able to shadow local employers.

The community video contest has been distributed to local papers, is on line with the city and the information packet is available at the school and on the school's website.

Other Business

Motion made by Higgins to approve the CEDA contract, and forward the contract and performance appraisal documents onto Council, and motion seconded by Meiner, motion passed 4/0

Adjourn – 6:50 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cornell, and motion seconded by Higgins, motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Enerson 12/29/17
Cathy Enerson date
EDA Director

Dale Heintz 12-29-17
Dale Heintz date
EDA Chair