

Economic Development Authority Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2018
5:30 p.m. Arbor Gardens, community room

Call to Order/Roll Call: *Chairman Heintz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.*

Present: Dale Heintz - Chair, Craig Horan Co-Chair, Connie Meiners, Tyrel Clark, Darcy Higgins, Bryan Cornell, Tom Aleshire, Staff: Cathy Enerson, Shelly Schossow

Absent: Don Rademacher

Other: George Veljeo – Resident arrived 6:30 pm

Approve the Agenda:

Horan motioned to approve the agenda Higgins seconded Motion passed 4/0

Members Meiners, Clark, Cornell arrived at 5:32 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Members reviewed the Arbor Gardens Report, Arbor Gardens Financials, EDA minutes of the regular meeting March 2018, and EDA Financials. Enerson answered questions on behalf of Rademacher regarding the financials specifically payroll having to pay out unexpected amount of sick leave for an employee on leave which was discussed at the Committee meeting. Board members also discussed the request for new cabinets and countertops reviewing the existing structures as well as reviewing the attached bids and discussing possible options and health regulations.

Clark motioned to approve recommendation to Council for Arbor Gardens to move forward with the cabinet and countertop replacements as long as it is researched and determined by Arbor Gardens the products quoted will be allowed by Health Department, Horan seconded motion passed 6/0. Higgins abstained

Higgins commented the Arbor Gardens committee meeting days and times does not work for him as it's too difficult to leave work at noon each month. Members discussed the Arbor Gardens committee meeting and it's time and intent. No modifications to time or members were suggested as resolution.

Clark motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda Cornell seconded Motion passed 7/0

Old Business

Members discussed and agreed with the differing opinions and location of welcome sign and what seems like much apathy this discussion should be set aside for the future.

Enerson asked the board to review the regional development tour map and provide any feedback they had on the map with specific question concerning the specific naming the commercial buildings examples of Eyota Market, Jem's, and the currently vacant building across Center Ave. from Jem's. Members discussed and gave recommendation due to the current state of these three properties being either vacant or for sale these properties should be listed as generically as possible such as "grocery store" etc.

Clark and Enerson both reported the Community Video project is currently pending due to various reasons across different parties involved.

Members discussed previous years Build and Save programs effects, as well as other nearby cities programs. Discussion around who the program ultimately benefits and if residents even see the cost savings or if they are absorbed by developers as well as what the funds are used for when collected verses if they are waived.

Clark motioned to recommend Council to review the City building fees, with the intent of being competitive to nearby cities building fees. Aleshire seconded. Motion passed 7/0

Enerson updated board members on the Journey 2 Grow (J2G) regional invitation information
Enerson gave business update on the pending modifications to Burt's Meats Revolving Loan

New Business

Façade Improvement grant request: Eyota Indoor Storage is under new management. Nicole El-Sawaf applied for funds in the amount of \$10,853.87. The board did not feel that cameras or the door security system improved the façade, therefore funding was approved in the amount of \$3,906.94 for 2 permanent signs, and landscaping. *Motion by Bryan Cornell to approve a modified amount of \$3,906.94 in façade improvements for Eyota Indoor Storage, pending City Council Approval, and motion seconded by Tyrel Clark, and motion carried 7/0.*

Enerson informed the board that the program has little funding, would the members like to add to the fund, close the fund or what in particular. The board indicated to leave the program open, adding funds would be determined in the future.

Enerson mentioned Eyota Indoor storage has been in contact with the City regarding a grant request for façade improvement/signage. Members discussed the remaining funds available in the program budget if there were potentially other requests for the near future and the lifespan of the program.

EDA Director and Board Members updates

Enerson updated the board on the Generator project and that given the cost of the generator and the need for other projects that without a reduction in insurance it is prudent to make current repairs and save for a generator. The board determined there would not be a need for a generator presentation at the May meeting. The Arbor Gardens building worksheet and future capital building improvement worksheet have been a great tool and are being utilized by Arbor Gardens and Tealwood at their April 24th working meeting. Enerson also reported the former Tree Frog Treasures building has been purchased by Speed Pro Imaging. The firm prints large scale banners, event tents, vehicle wrapping, etc. The Grocery Store for sale listing has initiated a small amount of interest from potential buyers both as a grocery store and other uses. 24 hour Fitness Center has been listed as a business for sale, the business is currently leasing the space. Enerson also reported she has received two new start-up business inquires. Clark updated the board on the Pavilion and Wet land area near the legion. The projects will not be finalized by Eyota Days 2018. Chester Woods Trails committee has been actively seeking legislative support for funding to continue working on the section of trails needed to connect from Rochester to Chester Woods. Enerson reported the SBDG grant application pending until June and recommends a letter of support to the legislature for the SE MN Housing revolving loan fund application.

Cornell motioned to approve a letter of support to the legislature on behalf of the board signed by Chairman Heintz be drafted and sent in support of the SBDG grant. Clark seconded the motion passed 7/0

Other Business

Enerson also noted May 16th Enerson will present to the 7 Rivers Alliance board in Rushford, and May 17th is the CEDA annual meeting is at 10:00am-noon, the Child Care project will be presented, and May 31st CEDA will host Marketing in the Morning in Manorville. Board members mentioned and discussed the impact of Eyota possibly losing the grocery store. It was mentioned historically once a grocery store in a small town closes down it is many years before another one takes its place. Members asked about the possibility of a public meeting to increase awareness of the grocery store being up for sale and the opportunities available to maintain a grocery store in town such as a co-op similar to other small cities in the area. It was mentioned any public meetings or such would have to have the approval of the current grocery store owners beforehand.

Resident George Veljeo addressed board members regarding item from April meeting asking for home based businesses to be allowed to be listed on City of Eyota website as a business. Clark asked to have additional time to review the request and decision from the previous board meeting.

Next meeting: May 24, 2018

Adjourn:

Cornell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm Aleshire seconded the motion passed 7/0

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Emerson *5/24/18*

Cathy Emerson *date*
EDA Director

Dale Heintz *5-24-2018*

Dale Heintz *date*
EDA Chair