



MINUTES OF THE EDA MEETING

EDA Members Present: Russ Smith, Shelly Peterson, Dave Bjerckness, Mike Schultz, Ross Peterson, Adam Bailey

EDA/Ex-Officio Members Absent: Steve Micke, EDA; Connie Christenson, Carlton County EDA

Staff Present: Brian Fritsinger, Holly Hansen (City); Kelly Zink (Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce)

Others Present: Brenda Nyberg, Carlton County EDA

CALL TO ORDER

President Ross Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER

None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

President Ross Peterson asked for any corrections or additions to the February 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes? Hearing none he asked for a motion.

Motion: Commissioner Shelly Peterson moved, and Commissioner Bjerckness seconded, that the EDA approve the Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2017. (Motion passed 6-0.)

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2017 EDA FINANCIALS

Ms. Hansen reviewed the January 2017 cash balances and loans for the EDA. For the cash balances, she noted increases in Fund 201 and 203; no change in Funds 202 and 204, a zero balance in Fund 206, and an operational deficit in Fund 207 which will be addressed structurally by the City for future years. Ms. Hansen noted in the future there will be a Fund 208 for new Small Cities funding from DEED. The EDA asked if the Cloquet Home Center closing proceeds had been applied to EDA financials. Ms. Hansen said no, those would show up in the February financials and the EDA should formally acknowledge the loss and take action to remove the loan from the City's books. President Ross Peterson asked for a motion to approve the January 2017 Cloquet EDA financials.

Motion: Commissioner Bailey moved, and Commissioner Schultz seconded, that the EDA January 2017 financials be approved. (Motion passed 6-0).



ACTION ITEMS / PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

CARLTON COUNTY BROADBAND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Brenda Nyberg, Loan and Grant Administrator for Carlton County EDA introduced herself and gave a summary of the Carlton County Broadband Feasibility Study stating it was funded by a grant from the Blandin Foundation. She reviewed the social media survey responses. She noted that the state's broadband goal is 25MB download and 3MG upload. Ms. Hansen noted that businesses in Cloquet need 10-upwards of 30MB upload speed. She noted a project this year with CTC and Upper Lakes Foods (ULF) at a private cost of \$30,000+ ULF made the connection down 8th Street as they were unable to operate their database software. Moose Lake is the only community in the county that has community led broadband service. Ms. Nyberg reviewed the list of providers that serve the county, noting that Carlton County ranked 66/87 in the state for broadband service. Commissioner Shelly Peterson noted that businesses make decisions on technology options.

The focus right now by the state's grant programs such as Boarder to Boarder and CAF funding to providers are to address "unserved" areas of the county, Cloquet is considered to be served, even though issues remain and business service is insufficient. There are also ongoing complaints related to residential service, Mr. Fritsinger noted the Freeman Road area and westerly parts of Cloquet, Commissioner Smith noted inadequate service and poor customer service from MediaCom, key to that is their cable TV priority and internet is secondary. Mr. Fritsinger asked if Cloquet's location adjacent to FDL Reservation created any unique federal funding opportunities for broadband? Ms. Nyberg stated that the county is actively meeting with FDL to see what partnership options exist.

The EDA asked how can Cloquet be part of this discussion particularly in moving forward business broadband needs? Ms. Nyberg responded that the state funding for broadband is a waiting game right now to see what becomes available. President Ross Peterson thanked Ms. Nyberg for reviewing the study and asked that the Cloquet EDA

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

Ms. Hansen distributed a draft action plan that put the draft recommendations from the Downtown Revitalization Strategy into table format under the categories of short, mid and long term timeframes. She also distributed a map of future City Engineering projects in the downtown area noting that in terms of upgrading lighting and other elements it could be an opportunity now to discuss with engineering how to integrate that into upcoming projects.

Commissioner Bjerkness suggested that Minnesota Statute be referenced in the plan versus putting the printed off statute on how special service districts work as to not seem leading (perhaps makes sense to appendix the Sketch Plan recommendations for each business district). Commissioner



Bailey suggested a community ambassador approach to communicating with building owners the goals of the city in individualized meetings to further change Downtown. Ms. Hansen suggested this could be a good discussion item with the Council at the joint meeting with them on April 4th.

CARLTON COUNTY'S NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (NRP)

Ms. Hansen stated that she, President Ross Peterson, Administrator Fritsinger and City Planner Al Cottingham met with Connie Christenson to review the intent of the County's new NRP program. She distributed a draft list and asked for feedback ideas from the EDA. Mr. Fritsinger suggested a broader approach to the list shifting from blight to instead substandard.

BRIEF REGIONAL ECONOMIC UPDATES

Please review updates in the packet.

Next meeting date

April 5, 2017.

ADJOURNED 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly L. Hansen, Community Development Director