



CLOQUET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City Hall 1307 Cloquet Avenue Cloquet, MN 55720
January 13, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Ross Peterson, President
Commissioner David Bjerckness, Vice President

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR EDA MEETING

EDA Members Present: Russ Smith, Shelly Peterson, Steve Micke, Dave Bjerckness, Lara Wilkinson, Mike Schultz, Ross Peterson

EDA Members/Ex-Officio Absent: Connie Christenson (Carlton County EDA)

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

CALL TO ORDER

President Ross Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER

Ms. Butcher asked for the 2016 Cloquet EDA Goals discussion to be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

President Ross Peterson asked for any corrections or additions to the December 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes? Hearing none he asked for a motion.

Motion: **Commissioner Shelly Peterson moved, and Commissioner Micke seconded, that the EDA approve the Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2015. (Motion approved 7-0.)**

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2015 EDA FINANCIALS

Ms. Butcher reviewed the December cash balances and loans for the EDA. For the cash balances, she noted increases in Funds 201 and 203; quarterly disbursements into Funds 202 and 204 generating cash balance increases, and a slight positive in Fund 207. Ms. Butcher directed the EDA to the balance sheet for Fund 207 and reviewing 2016-2019 budget changes made to the fund by the EDA Treasurer (Finance Director Klassen) to ensure it is solvent. Ms. Butcher reviewed active EDA loans noting all are currently.

President Ross Peterson asked for a motion to approve the December Cloquet EDA Financials.

Motion: **Commissioner Bjerckness moved, and Commissioner Shelly Peterson seconded, that the EDA December 2015 financials be approved. (Motion approved 7-0).**



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ACTION ITEMS / PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

EDA Calendar Discussion

Ms. Butcher mentioned there are several weeks staff is gone in training this year placing pressure on agenda preparation for the EDA. She reviewed each month of 2016 and the EDA concluded focusing meetings on either the first or second Wednesday will be needed otherwise it gets too far into the month and puts pressure on the following month. Ms. Butcher said she would prepare a 2016 Final calendar for the EDA.

Summary of Feedback from First / Three Downtown Meetings

Ms. Butcher reviewed a summary of input from both the Cloquet Avenue and West End Business District meetings, noting that there are some similar issues but also unique differentiated issues between the districts. She stated key differences are strong traffic patterns through the Cloquet Avenue District versus strong pedestrian patterns in the West End District with strong residential presence above businesses and adjacency to a neighborhood. Ms. Butcher stated she hopes at set the second meeting in January and the final in February. Commissioner Wilkinson stated the information is great to hear and have in hand.

Social Media Review

Ms. Butcher shared comments from the public on the City Facebook page asking for ideas for 2016. Kelly Zink stated it's helpful to hear that much of the work that is underway is aligned with the public's thoughts. Commissioner Bjerckness stated he thinks it's been a very successful tool in engaging with the public.

2016 EDA Goals Discussion

Ms. Butcher provided a cleaned up copy of the EDA Goals based on the November 2015 updates and discussion. President Ross Peterson stated that while this is a useful baseline, the entire list should be revisited and new ideas generated. Ms. Butcher stated that she would do that for a meeting in February that would focus on that topic and process.

Informational Updates / Discussion

Ms. Butcher reviewed the agenda updates noting a meeting on January 21st at City Hall on the Hwy 33 Corridor. She provided an update on financing for the Avenue C Restaurant and the status on when this loan would be brought forward to the Council. Commissioner Bjerckness asked about the status of the Jarden acquisition and if the Cloquet operations would be impacted? Ms. Butcher stated she spoke with both local and corporate Jarden who simply reported that the deal would close in Quarter 2. At this point, she assumes no change or impacts on the operations in Cloquet. Commissioner Smith asked for an update on the Cloquet Middle School RFP. Ms. Butcher stated



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there has been one submittal on the building and at this point the School District will be scheduling a meeting on the proposal, she is not aware of any dates at this time. Ms. Butcher mentioned that the Cloquet HRA also released an RFP for the land north of their building due back to the HRA at the end of January.

The Cloquet EDA discussed the process related to the Cloquet Middle School project and elements requested of the City within the submitted RFP and opportunities for the project.

Next meeting date

February 10, 2016 at 8 a.m.

ADJOURNED 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly L. Butcher, Community Development Director