



## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR EDA MEETING**

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

**EDA Members Absent:** Mike Schultz, Russ Smith (EDA Commissioners); Kelly Zink (Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce); Connie Christenson (Carlton County EDA)

**Staff Present:** Holly Butcher, Brian Fritsinger (City)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Shelly Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER**

Ms. Butcher requested that a land request from Friends of Animals be added to the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

President Shelly Peterson asked for any corrections or additions to the October 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes? Hearing none she asked for a motion.

**Motion:**        **Commissioner Bjerckness moved, and Commissioner Ross Peterson seconded, that the EDA approve the meeting minutes from October 7, 2015. (Motion passed 5-0.)**

### **ACTION ITEMS / PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### **Friends of Animals Land Request**

Ms. Butcher distributed a staff report on the FOA land request and reported that Friends of Animals (FOA) received an offer for their property and has 30-days to consider accepting that offer by finding other suitable buildings or land sites available in the Cloquet area. They are pleased with the current site they have, benefit from the visibility to Hwy 33 in terms of creating public awareness of their mission and wayfinding for customers. They would move if there is a net benefit to their operations as no one time sale has any direct impact to their long term budget sustainability. Any move by FOA requires renovations or building to be suited to their operations. All said, FOA is asking the EDA consider providing them a lot at no cost in the Cloquet Business Park. FOA has had a contractor examine the building costs and they are in the process of ascertaining if they can or cannot afford to build.



Ms. Butcher provided the EDA with a map of the Business Park and stated that in examining this request, she would recommend to the EDA that in considering this request that they consider the front of the Business Park along Hwy 33 for visibility and to minimize potential noise concerns as the rear of the Business Park is more proximate to residential. She suggested that Lot 8 or Lot 7 may be a potential fit and are comparable in size (one acre) to what FOA has now on South Hwy 33. They currently have a 6,000sf building and would hope to construct an 8,000sf building. FOA has been looking at various buildings in Cloquet for the past year, many of which are older or smaller buildings that require renovation or additions to be suitable to their operation; are not visible; or are not suitable to their needs in terms of having nearby walkable green space amenities for animals.

EDA members stated that the rear of the Business Park seemed more logical than potentially having them in the front of the Park as it might impact other lot sales.

**Direction: After discussion, the EDA directed Ms. Butcher to identify other viable tax forfeit parcels within or near Cloquet that might be a fit for FOA and or to identify another viable lot. The EDA is willing to call a special meeting as necessary.**

#### **Review of EDA Goals / Directions for 2016**

Ms. Butcher reviewed the status of the EDA and Council goals as they relate to economic development and noted the activities that are next up on the workload list. Commissioner Bjerkness asked that the EDA consider a goal that formerly was on the EDA Goals which was “Relationships” and noted that future FDL involvement with the EDA remains to be an opportunity.

**Direction: Update is a platform for updating EDA goals for 2016 and is on track.**

#### **Roundtable / Informational Updates / EDA Questions**

#### **Next meeting date**

December 2, 2015.

#### **ADJOURNED 9:42 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



**CLOQUET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
City Hall 1307 Cloquet Avenue Cloquet, MN 55720  
November 4, 2015

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Holly L. Butcher, Community Development Director