



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR EDA MEETING

EDA Members Present: Russ Smith, Shelly Peterson, Dave Bjerckness, Mike Schultz, Ross Peterson, Roger Maki, Dave Bjerckness

EDA/Ex-Officio/Staff Members Absent: Steve Micke (EDA); Aaron Reeves (City), Kelly Zink (Chamber)

Ex-Officio Staff/Staff Members Present: Holly Hansen (City), Connie Christenson (Carlton County EDA)

CALL TO ORDER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER

President Ross Peterson noted the date error at the top of the agenda that should instead read October 3, 2018.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

President Ross Peterson asked for any corrections or additions to the September 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes? Hearing none he asked for a motion.

Motion: Commissioner Bjerckness moved, and Commissioner Smith seconded, that the EDA approve the Meeting Minutes from September 5, 2018. (Motion passed 6-0.)

AUGUST 2018 EDA FINANCIALS

Ms. Hansen reviewed the August 2018 cash balances and loans for the EDA. For the cash balances, she noted increases in Fund 201, 203 and 206; no change in Fund 202. She noted the operational deficit of Fund 207 due to two loans and referred to the balance sheet that show she is solvent but cash poor due to the loans. Ms. Hansen provided an update on the Daqota Systems loan deferral and said the status for Avenue C Restaurant still involved ongoing refinancing. President Ross Peterson asked for a motion to approve the August 2018 Cloquet EDA financials.

Motion: Commissioner Schultz moved, and Commissioner Bjerckness seconded, that the EDA August 2018 financials be approved. (Motion passed 6-0).

ACTION ITEMS / PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Cloquet EDA Website

Ms. Hansen opened the draft www.cloqueteda.com website and reviewed the site with the EDA for feedback. The EDA had several valuable comments including:



- Relocating the “spotlight” section upward on the page.
- Staff was asked to consult the designers on the look and layout of the website as it is drab, consult the designer on graphical updates that are feasible.
- The bottom of the page has logos for FB, linkedin etc. that are not linked to the City pages and should be. Staff is to consider if they will launch and maintain the linked in site or not.
- On the scrolling photos, the EDA did not like the interior photo of people on the mill tour of Sappi. Instead they asked that photo be removed entirely and instead the use an exterior Sappi photo and add a small business.
- Create personalization/testimonial opportunities for EDA members, businesses etc. Have staff retape the youtube video this week on incentives.

Business Event Review

Staff provided an update on the annual EDA Work Plan goal of featuring the Cloquet Business Park. Staff has been working with MnPower to jointly host an event on business resources available for Cloquet businesses. On October 10th the Cloquet EDA/Minnesota Power will host the event in the Daqota Systems building.

DISCUSSION / CLOQUET EDA INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Commissioner Shelly Peterson said that the Cloquet Boldt office had been awarded the Essentia pre-construction bid and in November Essentia will select the project contractor team. She also announced that she would be venturing into new career challenges in Florida to open a new Boldt Office there and will be unavailable for the November and December meetings. As of January 2019 her attendance may be sporadic and she asked the EDA to consider how they'd like to handle her replacement. President Ross Peterson suggested instead that she let staff/EDA President know when she felt she could no longer adequately serve. Staff shared past business inquiries interested in serving on the Cloquet EDA. Commissioner Smith shared some project rumors he had heard and asked staff to investigate their validity and get back to EDA members. Commissioner Schultz shared disappointing news that the State Department of Agriculture had determined that Sappi was not eligible for a bioincentive program that would have been extremely beneficial economically. Ms. Christenson invited all Cloquet EDA members to join her Futures Workshop on October 17th at the U of M Forestry Center in Cloquet.

Next meeting date

November 7, 2018

ADJOURNED 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly L. Hansen, Community Development Director