

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson and Mayor Hallback.
Absent: None.
Staff: Fritsinger, Butcher and Stracek.
Other: Steve Micke, Shelly Peterson, Russ Smith, Ross Peterson, Connie Christiansen, Jana Peterson and Jamie Lund (Pine Journal).

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Fritsinger began with introductions and noted that the City Council and EDA try to meet on an annual basis to review the past years activity and the goals for the coming year. Ms. Butcher then began with a PowerPoint presentation detailing a review of the 2014 year. The EDA worked on the following projects: housing study, Northland Connection, business retention visits, I-35/Hwy 33 development including an RFP/design for the DNR property, farmers market, new business park signage, joint meeting with the HRA, and the development of a new Facebook page.

EDA Chairwoman Shelly Peterson then provided an overview of the goals of the EDA for 2015. These goals include: developing the Business Park; promoting the development and maintenance of housing through implementation of the Housing Study; developing land along Highway 33/I-35 for retail development; Downtown redevelopment/revitalization; develop business and community marketing program; existing business retention and growth; and providing proactive economic and community development leadership and support. The Council and EDA discussed several of the strategies involved and the Council expressed support for this agenda.

The meeting was then opened up for general discussion on economic development efforts and the goals identified. The Council asked if the list was too large and whether or not it should be more focused and conservative. The group questioned how could there be some refocus to narrow down the list. The members of the EDA were encouraged and interested in being more involved in helping accomplish the goals. The Council noted that it believed the first four goals were really good and high priorities. Councilor Wilkinson suggested that at some point in the future the City Council be provided an overview of our economic development funding programs. The Council agreed that this would be helpful to better understand what we offer and how it works. It would also help do a better job in educating the community to these programs.

The Council inquired as to how the City EDA and County EDA work together these days. Ms. Christiansen noted that there is a very high level of communication that takes places usually on a daily basis. The City is represented on the County EDA by Commissioner Dick Brenner. The County is currently involved with approximately 6 different projects in the community.

Hearing no further questions, the Council thanked the EDA for their time and energy in helping the City with its economic development efforts.

OTHER/FUTURE AGENDAS

The Council liked the new project sign at Pinehurst Park but noted there was no mention of the sales tax funding being used. The Council asked that they be updated on Clean Up Day plans in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator