

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

2:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Present: Nelson French
Beth Smuk
Richard DeRosier
Joe Nicklay
Steve VanHouse

Absent: Shane Hoff
Vacant Seat

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Tim Costley, City Attorney
David Drown, Economic Development Director

French called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Agenda – Motion by DeRosier, second Smuk to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

French welcomed new board members, Joe Nicklay and Steve VanHouse to the Economic Development Authority Board.

Minutes – Motion by DeRosier, second Smuk to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 regular meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS- Drown has been contacted by a local business property broker and a representative of Kraus Anderson regarding EDA activities within the city. There was lengthy discussion regarding an email received from Jenny Bjerken and her objection to the rumored potential purchase by the city of property located on Highway 61. Drown will respond to her email.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – There was a discussion regarding the role of the EDA director and EDA board in the community with further discussion on communicating effectively and accurately both in and out of the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS –

BoatHouse Bay Status- Drown provided project history for the new board members. Previous bids came in high; developer has redesigned the plans and the bidding process will begin again soon and will provide confirmation if the project will be able to move forward or not.

Penn Ave. Housing Program Status- Drown provided history for the new board members. Discussion on the timing for the transfer of property to the City, that the Lake County HRA will have a Public Hearing on May 10th, and future development plans.

Golf Course Housing Status- Drown provided history of the housing project for the new board members. Platting will be completed and presented to Planning & Zoning Board to move forward in the next few months.

Housing Subsidy Program- There have been five applicants interested with three moving forward to build homes on vacant lots. Further updates will be provided at future meeting.

Downtown Design Status- The concept designs for the downtown area are being revised to reflect more parking and designs that better reflect the needs of the city. Once complete the concept designs will be presented to the business community and then public comments. Council has approved the feasibility study for a new street behind the Shopping Center. Discussion followed regarding CSAH roads, culverts, signage, and housing needs.

Kali Partner Gateway Property- Drown spoke with Kali Partners regarding the property for sale on Highway 61 and they would like to have some time to see if they are able to sell before considering any trade or deal with the city. There was discussion on the history of the property sale, working with MNDOT, grants obtained, variance approved, loans, and original development plan.

NEW BUSINESS-

Mission Statement- Drown asked what the EDA board would like the mission of the EDA to be. There was discussion regarding promoting population and footprint growth of community, stagnant and need of revitalization, increasing tax base, business growth and making the community a better place to live. French will draft a mission statement for discussion at the next meeting. There was also discussion on developing an advertisement campaign promoting Silver Bay life to city life and directed toward people who work remotely.

Board Applications- Two board applications were reviewed to fill vacant seat, after lengthy discussion the consensus of the board was to table filling the positions until both applicants could be interviewed. MOTION TABLED.

Motion by DeRosier, second Smuk to adjourn at 4:05 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson