

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Arlington EDA meeting was called to order by President Mark Lundstrom at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were; Lundstrom, Pederson, Vrklan, Krueger and Sorenson. Also Administrator Jaunich, Director Schultz and Mayor Kreft.

Agenda was reviewed and motion/second (Krueger/Vrklan) to approve. Passed.

Motion/second (Vrklan/Krueger) to approve the meeting minutes of the January 14<sup>th</sup> EDA meeting. Passed.

Financial report was reviewed with a motion/second to approve. (Sorenson/Pederson). Passed.

Pederson/Lundstrom/Vrklan attended the Sibley County-wide EDA strategy session but were slightly disappointed in format and what was discussed. Very general topics were talked about. Group buying agreements between the county communities have possibilities. No follow-up meetings are scheduled.

Director Schultz will talk with Streets Superintendent Thomes about the cost of either "Business District" or "Downtown" signs and also talk with MnDOT and Sibley County on the permission and placement of these signs at appropriate intersections.

The EDA property is no longer being considered as a home for the city owned wind tower. The EDA's involvement might be in purchasing any available property for the tower. More information will be passed along as it becomes available.

Mayor Kreft updated the EDA on the possibility of annexing the southwest EDA property. The City's goal, in addition to annexation is to define and clarify the City's south boundary. Sometime in the near future the City will request from the EDA a current annexation petition.

Extended discussion was held on the possibility of a downtown restoration project for Arlington. Options may include hiring an outside consultant to develop programs and design criteria for the downtown area to pattern after. A phone conversation by Director Schultz and member Krueger was held with Troy Domine from Montgomery and his involvement with Hometown Minnesota. This group didn't seem to have the framework that we need to initiate a project of our scope.

A first step may be to establish a program utilizing a combination of loans and grants to the downtown businesses for storefront rehabilitation. A program patterned after the EDA Lot Loan Program might be a possibility. Implementation questions that came up were, "Do we have 3 or 4 visions that we sell to the downtown business owners or do we bring in the downtown community for their input and then establish the program?" and "Here's an X amount of money with these stipulations attached to them. How would you like to make use of these funds?"

Consensus of the group was that this idea will be best served by bringing in outside consultants to assist with the visioning and rendition development. Director Schultz was asked to inquire whether available TIF funding could be used to offset these visioning development costs. Region 9, the City of Hutchinson and Christy Rock from Norwood/YA should be utilized as resources for this idea.

Mayor Kreft reported on the new City Auditor's request for a review and accounting of all EDA accounts and a history and intentions of each EDA account. An EDA By-Law review and updating is needed and a possible City Council Resolution clarifying and granting the EDA spending authority over the EDA accounts. EDA financials are in need of review and simplification. Moving towards General Accepted Accounting Practices for the EDA financials is a goal that should be most pressing. Advice for this could come from the City's current auditing firm.

Member Krueger asked that an agenda item for the next meeting be the discussion of a Revolving Loan Fund requirement that a delinquent RLF business be required to counsel with the Small Business Development Center.

Motion made and seconded (Vrklan/Sorenson) to establish a By-Law review sub-committee consisting of Dave Krueger, Jim Kreft and Denny Schultz. Passed.

Motion to adjourn and seconded (Krueger/Sorenson). Passed.

Next meeting scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

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President, Mark Lundstrom

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Director, Denny Schultz