

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted an EDA meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                          Member John LeTourneau  
                          Member Colin McGlone  
                          Member Wayne Skaff  
                          Member Jim Steffen  
                          Member Kristine Williams (arrived at 8:43 a.m.)

Members Absent:     Member Jeff Wise

Also Present:         Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager  
                          Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator (left at 9:16 a.m.)  
                          Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member McGlone, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members, LeTourneau, McGlone, Skaff, and Steffen. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Williams, and Wise.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member LeTourneau, to approve May 12, 2011 minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Steffen, LeTourneau, McGlone, Skaff. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Williams, and Wise.

**EDA BUSINESS**

**Case #1:         Minneapolis Manufacturing Prospect Update**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the status of the site selection process with the Minneapolis company the company's Board of Directors will be having a meeting this month and will consider the proposal made by the City of Ramsey.

Member Steffen asked if the company had any locations outside of the Twin Cities.

Mr. Backman stated they have a 190,000 square foot building in Chicago. The facility in Minneapolis is a 160,000 square foot building on four and one half (4-1/2) acres with the facility taking up four (4) of those acres.

**Case #2: Game Fair Financial Participation**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the Game Fair and cost share of security for the event.

Chairperson Riley asked if the City would be getting a free booth again this year in exchange for the cost share.

City Administrator Ulrich stated they will provide a larger booth, 20x20, and use more of the City of Ramsey logos in the advertising of the event. He stated he thinks it is a good arrangement and beneficial to the City.

Chairperson Riley stated it is a good draw to the City and asked if they knew how many Ramsey residents attended the event.

City Administrator Ulrich stated attendance is approximately 40,000 over the two weekends; however, it is not possible to know how many Ramsey residents attend.

Member McGlone stated staffing the booth is an opportunity to talk to the people and answer questions they may have. He added that it is beneficial for the residents. He asked how the construction on Armstrong Blvd. would affect traffic for the event.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson stated the project will be done with no change in traffic patterns, however, the project will be further along by the middle of August and there might be some traffic challenge.

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member LeTourneau to approve paying for one third of the total security costs for the 2011 Game Fair located in the City of Ramsey, up to a maximum of \$3,500.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, LeTourneau, McGlone, Steffen, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wise.

**CASE #3 Buxton Study Follow-Up**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman reviewed the Staff report that discussed the Buxton Study and an update to the retail assessment study.

Members discussed how the study has been used and if an update was part of the original contract.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Skaff that Staff inquire and follow through in regards to the language in the proposal that indicates in the beginning of the third year a complete refresh of the study would be provided using updated data and that it is part of the original agreement and prepaid.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members, LeTourneau, Skaff, McGlone, Steffen, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wise.

#### **CASE #4 TIF Legislation Passage**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report that discussed the TIF legislation passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director described the provisions this legislation will bring to The COR.

Member McGlone stated the importance and difficulty of this accomplishment. He continued that everyone involved in getting this legislation passed did an outstanding job.

Mr. Backman stated there was a lot of effort behind the scenes. The Department of Revenue lobbied the Governor to veto the bill.

#### **Case #5: Staff Project Update**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman requested input from the members regarding Business of the Year nominations. He updated the members on the business being highlighted in the next issue of the Ramsey Resident, Access America Transportation. They started with two (2) people and (2) phone lines and now have 56 employees. They hope to have 75 by the end of this year. This is an example of a company that is growing even in this economic downturn.

Member LeTourneau asked that Mr. Backman put together a top 10 list based on the criteria established for Business of the Year.

Mr. Backman stated the four criteria established for the Business of the Year selection.

Chairperson Riley requested that prior year's nominations be reviewed also. He stated City Staff would be a good source for nominations.

Member McGlone stated that Sunfish Express has kept the business open with the new configuration of Sunfish Lake Boulevard.

Mr. Backman stated if there is a business you would like to nominate, email him; he will put together a top ten list and members will discuss and select a business at the July EDA meeting.

Mr. Backman stated he visited RM Golf Carts on Saturday and the owner is very pleased with this location. He has ample room for displays and repair area.

Member McGlone stated the owner of RM Golf Carts complimented Mr. Backman on his helpfulness with the re-location of his business. He is going to be able to increase his sales because he can have more stock on hand.

Mr. Backman thanked Member McGlone for bringing the business to his attention.

Mr. Backman will be bringing three (3) items to the City Council meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>; the subsidy agreement with the Falls Café, consider the full restaurant subsidy policy, and consider a lease agreement with Crystal Pierz Marine.

#### **CASE #6: The COR Status Report**

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson reviewed the ICSC Conference, shared the new graphics and displayed a picture of the Development Team's booth at the conference.

Member McGlone stated that meetings with franchise development attendees were good. They have 50 or so contacts and the momentum is building.

City Administrator Ulrich stated Ms. Nelson and Development Manager Lazan did a fantastic job on the booth and this was the best year the Ramsey team has had at the conference.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman asked if the team thought there was positive continuity in going each year.

Member McGlone stated absolutely.

Mr. Ulrich stated they meet with people from previous years and tell them what is new in the city.

Ms. Nelson stated that getting an anchor to commit would help with development of The COR.

Ms. Nelson stated the Allina Clinic opened on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and the VA will open in November. Residence at The COR plans on closing in July and Suite Living in August. Legacy Christian School is planning a spring 2012 start with the school opening in the fall of 2013.

Ms Nelson explained the facts and members discussed an anonymous letter that was sent to residents throughout the city.

Ms. Nelson stated she was part of a NorthStar Rail line tour in May. It was an opportunity to see the development plans of the station sites of each city. The City of Ramsey is the only station with the view of Highway #10. If funding is approved the station ground breaking will be spring of 2012 and operational fall of 2012.

#### **MEMBER INPUT**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Williams, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Steffen, Williams, LeTourneau, McGlone, and Skaff. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wise.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Aaron Backman  
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Planning Division Secretary