

**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, July 14, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Vice Chairperson Wayne Skaff
Member John LeTourneau (left at 8:37 a.m.)
Member Colin McGlone
Member Jim Steffen
Member Kristine Williams
Alternate Randy Backous

Members Absent: Chairperson Riley
Member Jeff Wise

Also Present: Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager
Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Skaff called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Williams, to approve June 9, 2011 minutes as presented.

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

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1: 2011 Business of the Year Nominations

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the Top Ten List of Nominees for the 2011 Business of the Year award.

Discussion ensued regarding the selection of Business of the Year.

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member LeTourneau to select Green Valley Green House as the 2011 Business of the Year.

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

Case #2: Minnesota Shovel Ready Program Participation

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the Minnesota Shovel Ready Program. Being designated for Minnesota's Shovel Ready program means a site has done all the planning, zoning, surveys, title work, environmental studies, soil analysis and infrastructure engineering necessary before development. Minnesota's Certified Shovel Ready sites are marketed at national conferences, trade shows and on the MNPRO.com website, the state's site-selection database.

Mr. Backman continued by stating that Connexus Energy will cover the costs of the program for two locations in its service area. He stated that PSD, Inc. is also willing to pay for portions of the cost, including city owned parcels.

Member Williams asked if there was flexibility to make changes with this designation.

Mr. Backman stated it is possible to modify and update the information.

Members discussed the benefits of the Minnesota Shovel Ready Program.

Motion by Member McGlone, seconded by Member LeTourneau to participate in the Minnesota Shovel Ready Program.

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

CASE #3 Buxton Study Refresh

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman reviewed the Staff report that discussed the Buxton Study refresh and the process of the refresh.

Member LeTourneau asked if there would be an interpretation of the data.

Vice Chairperson Skaff asked if they could do a video conference call if not able to be on site.

Mr. Backman stated he would be talking further with them regarding the analysis.

Mr. Backman stated that he talked with Darren Lazan of the Development Team for the COR and he suggested that the study focus on small retailers, stand-alone shops, specialty shops and restaurants both in the COR and the 167th node.

CASE #4 Candidate Forum Sponsorship

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report that discussed the special election for Ward 4 and the possible EDA sponsorship of a candidate forum.

Members discussed the sponsorship; how it fits with the role of the EDA and how best to market it.

Member LeTourneau stated he would take the lead on the candidate forum.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Williams to sponsor a candidate forum for the special election in Ward 4.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Skaff, Members, LeTourneau, Williams, Backous, and Steffen. Voting No: Member McGlone. Absent: Chairperson Riley and Member Wise.

Case #5: Staff Project Update

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report that updated the members on the following projects: Preparations for Business Appreciation, Game Fair Update/Booth, TIF District Activities/TIF Reports and EDAM Summer Conference.

Members discussed preparation for the Business Appreciation Day including the addition of team photos.

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Williams to transfer \$4,500 from the EDA fund to the Business Appreciation Day.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Skaff, Members, Steffen, Williams, Backous, and McGlone. Voting No: Member McGlone. Absent: Chairperson Riley and Member Wise.

CASE #6: The COR Status Report

City Administrator Kurt Ulrich presented the Staff Report that discussed the status of the COR.

MEMBER INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary