

**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, December 8, 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 Jeff Wise

Members Absent: Member Jim Steffen
 Member Kristine Williams

Also Present: Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager
 Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator
 Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director
 Randy Backous, City Council Alternate Member (arrived at 7:38 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the October 13, 2011 minutes with the last sentence in Case #3 to read "Consensus of Board Members and Mr. Buttenhoff was that the connection should be on the southwest side rather than extending the water main to the north".

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

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1 Recommend City Council Resolution Supporting the Mississippi River Trail

Parks Supervisor Riverblood presented the Staff Report that described the importance of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) to tourism and local businesses. He also showed where the trail will run and the connection to existing trails and the boat landing. He stated the gate house and parking areas will be included in later phases.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Skaff to recommend City Council approve a resolution supporting the goals of the Mississippi River Trail and actively pursue marketing the Mississippi River Trail in Ramsey for its economic benefits.

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

Case #2: Recap of the Business Networking Event

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented a recap of the Business Networking Event. He stated he sought the Governor to be the guest speaker; however, his schedule would not allow it. Mark Phillips, the Commissioner of DEED was available to attend and speak at the event. Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated that the later date of the event might have affected the attendance and he has tentatively set the date for the 2012 event as November 8, 2012.

Member Skaff stated that EDA members could contact some of the businesses next year to personally invite them to the event.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated that a personal touch makes a difference. He called and visited several businesses that then took the time to RSVP for the event.

Case #3: EDA Project Update

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that updated Members on current Economic Development projects.

Case #4: COR Status Report

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented the Staff Report that discussed the activity in the COR.

Discussion ensued regarding the future Highway #10 and Armstrong Boulevard interchange and Sunwood Drive realignment; funding, business traffic, and safety.

MEMBER INPUT

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated today from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be a Manufacturing Round Table at Pentair sponsored by Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce.

Member LeTourneau stated that the chamber has focused on manufacturing for the past year and a half. This particular meeting will be regarding work force development.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated that there will be a tour of the Ramsey business, Altron, at 2:30 today. The tour will highlight the facility.

Member McGlone stated that also today from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will be a Builder/Developer open house. The purpose of the open house is to receive feedback on building and/or developing in the City of Ramsey. The open house includes lunch.

Member McGlone commended Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood and all those involved for their efforts in getting the first ever Christmas tree in the Draw Park.

City Administrator Ulrich stated it was a community partnership with Connexus Energy and Kinghorn Contracting helping with the lights.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member LeTourneau, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary