

**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, January 12, 2012, 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

Members Absent: Member Jeff Wise

Also Present: Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager
 Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator
 Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Steffen, to approve the agenda with the addition of case "Economic Development/Marketing Manager Position".

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the December 8, 2011 minutes as presented.

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

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1 Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Williams to appoint Member Riley as Chairperson and Member Skaff as Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development Authority.

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

Case #2: EDA 2012 Meeting Dates

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the staff report that discussed the meeting dates of the Economic Development Authority meetings. No changes were made to the 2012 meeting schedule.

Case #3: Buxton Business Prospect Update

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that updated Members on the status of the Buxton Group Business Prospects. Mr. Backman stated he has spoken with 13 of the 20 recommended companies. The companies receive correspondence from the Buxton Group and Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman follows up with information on Ramsey.

Case #4: EDA 2012 Work Plan Goals

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the progress of the 2011 Work Plan Goals and 2012 Work Plan Goals. Mr. Backman stated there has been progress on six out of seven of the highest priority areas.

Members discussed the progress of the 2011 EDA Work Plan and the priorities for the 2012 Work Plan.

Chairperson Riley stated that obtaining a zip code was important to give Ramsey an identity.

Member LeTourneau stated he would like the goal of “establishment of new industrial/business park” be moved up on the priority list.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations proposed by Chairperson Riley and Member LeTourneau as well as the 167th and Hwy 47 node.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman requested the Members call or email him their priorities and he will bring a draft 2012 Work Plan to the February EDA meeting.

Case #5: Economic Development/Marketing Manager Position

Chairperson Riley stated he added this case because of the proposition of potentially eliminating the Economic Development/Marketing Manager position and spreading those responsibilities to other staff. It is important that the EDA has a staff liaison and that this group supports the position. He continued that this group is ineffective without an economic development staff person.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2013 budget concerns and the importance of the Economic Development/Marketing Manager position to the EDA.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Member LeTourneau that the EDA puts its support behind the Economic Development/Marketing Manager position, understanding the City Council has a decision to make, and that the EDA needs this position to be effective and successful.

Member McGlone stated he would abstain from the vote to see what the discussion is at the council work session meeting taking place Monday, January 23, 2012.

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

Case #6: Staff Update

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the staff report that updated the Members on the 2012 Business Expo, Sunfish Commons, and the Transit Improvement Area (TIA) Application. A draft 2012 Legislative Policy for EDAM was attached to the agenda for the Members' information.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated the 2012 Business Expo will be held on April 28th.

Case #7: COR Update

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

MEMBER/STAFF INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary