

**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, April 12, 2012, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Member Colin McGlone
 Member Wayne Skaff
 Member Jim Steffen (arrived at 7:38 a.m.)
 Member Kristine Williams
 Member Jeff Wise

Members Absent: Member John LeTourneau

Also Present: Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator
 Patrick Brama, Management Intern

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member McGlone, seconded by Member Wise, to approve the agenda with the addition of Business Expo and EDA Staffing.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Member Wise, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the March 8, 2012 minutes as presented.

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

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1 2012 EDA Work Plan and EDA Staffing

City Administrator Ulrich presented the Staff Report and introduced Management Intern Brama. He stated Management Intern Brama will be a good asset and resource for the EDA.

Management Intern Brama introduced himself and gave a brief summary of the projects and committees he has worked on for the City of Ramsey.

Members reviewed the highest priorities on 2012 Work Plan.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that EDA Members could play a role in business retention by periodically making site visits to businesses in lieu of a meeting. He stated that he will be the main contact for the EDA Members, that EDA Consultant Mike Mulrooney may be utilized more frequently, Management Intern Brama will help with site selections for new businesses or relocation of existing businesses and Senior Planner Tim Gladhill would be able to help identify appropriate sites as well.

Member Skaff stated he supports the idea of the EDA members visiting with the leaders of businesses over breakfast or coffee break. It is a way to show them that we care and let them know that they are appreciated.

Chairperson Riley stated the EDA has only three events a year that we touch businesses and would want to continue those events, they are low cost.

Member Skaff stated he agreed and the Business Appreciation Day golf event is a great event and a way to meet the employees as well as the CEOs of the businesses.

Discussion ensued regarding membership in Twin Cities Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB). Consensus was that this item should be moved down to medium priority; this was completed, however, CVB is not considering a geographic expansion at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the priority “Develop a plan to recapitalize the Ramsey Revolving Loan Fund” and Members decided to move it up to moderately high priorities.

Consensus was to remove the priority “Review the financial obligations and resources of the City’s TIF districts and submit modifications as necessary” and have Finance Director Diana Lund present a TIF update once a year to the EDA.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that the Minnesota Commercial Association of Realtors (MNCAR) Exchange membership is current; Members discussed the membership and decided to see how much it is used this year before removing this from the work plan.

Chairperson Riley stated that with the current staffing level changes he doesn’t want the EDA to be less productive. He would like to know that someone is assigned to getting things done.

Member McGlone stated that it is certainly the wish of the Council to keep this body functioning. Like every other area of the city they want to make it better and less costly, doing the greatest good for the public.

Case #2: Business Expo Update

Management Intern Brama presented an update on the 2012 Business Expo. He asked members if they were interested in purchasing table coverings for the event.

Consensus was that the exhibitors should provide their own table coverings.

Members Skaff and Williams volunteered to help with the event.

Case #3: Staff Update

City Administrator Ulrich presented the Staff Report that updated the members on projects in The COR, the Boat Launch dedication and the Stoney River project.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that there will be two or three councilmembers, Management Intern Brama, Development Manager Darren Lazan and himself attending the International Conference of Shopping Centers (ICSC) this year. The dates of the conference are May 20th through the 23rd.

Member Wise stated that Sam from Acapulco Restaurant is interested in attending the ICSC this year along with the City delegation.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that B & B Carpet and Flooring celebrated their 50th Anniversary.

MEMBER/STAFF INPUT

Member McGlone stated Legacy Services Corporation, 6390 McKinley Street, Suite 120, will be hosting an Alzheimer's benefit on May 18th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The EDA and City are invited to attend the event.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary