

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

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2018, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Acting Chair Brian Burandt
 Member Glen Hardin
 Member LeAnn Lambrecht
 Member John LeTourneau
 Member Chris Riley

Members Absent: Chairperson Jim Steffen
 Member Dominic Kanaventi

Also Present: Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager
 Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director
 Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator
 Mark Riverblood, Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent
 Jacquel Hajder, Anoka County Economic Development Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member Hardin, seconded by Member Lambrecht, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chairperson Burandt, Members Hardin, Lambrecht, LeTourneau, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Kanaventi and Steffen.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

3.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated September 13, 2018

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Hardin, to approve the September 13, 2018, minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chairperson Burandt, Members Riley, Hardin, Lambrecht, and LeTourneau. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Kanaventi and Steffen.

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.01: Presentation: Anoka County Regional Economic Development Partnership

Jacqueline Hajder, Anoka County Economic Development Specialist, introduced herself noting that she began her position with Anoka County in July. She provided background information on the partnership and study that brought the need for her position forward. She stated that Anoka County is defining the roles to determine how it can work with regional partners as it relates to economic development marketing, incentives, business retention and expansion; ensure that the communities in Anoka County are ready for development; and address and work to change the perception of Anoka County. She highlighted the employment and target industries that were identified in the study and provided information on employment distribution throughout the County. She reviewed the members of the Executive Committee that she works with which includes Connexus, four city representatives, County Commissioners and staff, Metro North Chamber, three Subcommittees, and herself. She reviewed the issues that the Marketing Subcommittee, Readiness Subcommittee and the Alignment and Regionalism Subcommittee are focusing on. She identified additional partnerships and opportunities for leads to bring new businesses into the communities of Anoka County. She highlighted some of the regional coordination and local assistance that she is able to provide for communities. She provided information on the budget for the program that is provided by the cost-share of the communities. She explained that the cost-share portion for each community is based on the population of each community.

Acting Chairperson Burandt asked if some of the goals have been accomplished.

Ms. Hajder replied that there are some projects that came from Connexus Energy with businesses that had specific needs and that they were able to locate within the County. She stated that some of the partners that she has talked to are glad to see Anoka County take this kind of action and regional coordination. She noted that some communities also find it helpful to have a point person at the County to assist in resolving challenges towards economic development. She explained that a perception of a regional level can hurt the communities at a local level and that is what they are attempting to change.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that he would be looking for action from the EDA on the recommendation to the City Council regarding participation in the Anoka County Economic Development Partnership and cost-share. He stated that the City Attorney had reviewed the form and content of the documents and found them satisfactory.

Member Riley asked from the perception of staff whether this would be beneficial to the City.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan agreed that this would be helpful to have the partnership and noted that an active regional approach by Anoka County would increase potential leads for the City of Ramsey and the Region. He stated that there are additional services relating to the use of the MNCAR membership that are able to be provided from Ms. Hajder upon request.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that there was a time when Ms. Hajder was a great interim resource to staff prior to Economic Development Manager Sullivan being hired in the City of Ramsey. He stated that even with a full staff, it is helpful to have that backup assistance when support is needed. He noted that Anoka County HRA funds could be used to fund this partnership.

Member LeTourneau stated that he believes that this initiative is well placed and commended the County for taking this action. He stated that there has been a long tradition of underserving the County in terms of economic development and is glad to see that changing. He noted that he was interested to see the leakage of people in terms of employment, which indicates a large number of people that are leaving the County to work each day. He stated that this partnership will provide an opportunity to recapture some of that employment within the County. He stated that having a partner with Anoka County and the regional players will be to everyone's advantage. He stated that the more employment opportunities there are in Anoka County helps to increase the demand for housing and retail. He believed that the investment requested is very reasonable and believed that Ramsey should join this effort.

Acting Chairperson Burandt agreed that this position at the County level is much needed and he would also support this action.

A member from the public in attendance of the meeting stated that he found the presentation very interesting. He stated that it was emphasized twice that negative perceptions of Anoka County exist. He asked for additional information on the negative perceptions that might be out there for Anoka County and what the marketing will focus on.

Ms. Hajder reviewed some of both the positive and negative perceptions that exist for the County and regional area and how the marketing efforts will attempt to change those negative perceptions. She explained that if you are not telling your message, the question will be who is telling that message for you and that is where perceptions come in.

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Hardin, to recommend to City Council to participate in the Anoka County Economic Development Partnership and to forward to the City Council for consideration of approval to sign Memorandum of Understanding and Voluntary Cost Share Agreement, subject to City Attorney approval.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chairperson Burandt, Members Riley, Hardin, Lambrecht, and LeTourneau. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Kanaventi and Steffen.

4.02: Authorize Trail Easement over West 20 Feet of 5195 142nd Avenue (aka former AMOCO site)

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood presented the staff report.

Member Hardin asked if there would be any negative aspects on the future buildability of the lot, parking, or setbacks.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he did not see any negative aspects, noting that the easement would be counted towards the required greenspace for the site.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the trail easement would not have any impact on building code. He stated that this will be done in a way that will not inhibit the site in terms of future buildability.

Member Riley commented that the Public Works Committee has been looking at the City's trails in general to determine gaps and this was identified as one of the highest priorities. He noted that the City currently owns the parcel and believed that this makes sense.

Member LeTourneau asked if there is an expectation for the trail to continue south.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the trail is in place south of 142nd on both sides of 47, which connects to the other trails in the area along Bunker Lake Boulevard and Puma Street. He stated that this will be an important connection not only for the City system but also the overall regional system.

Acting Chairperson Burandt stated that his family often bikes in this area and agreed that this segment of trail is definitely needed for safety and connection.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that when the site is developed, they would also request a sidewalk along 142nd, which would be separate from this action.

Motion by Member Hardin, seconded by Member Lambrecht, to authorize staff to proceed with recording a 20-foot trail easement over the City owned property at 5195 142nd Avenue NW.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chairperson Burandt, Members Hardin, Lambrecht, LeTourneau, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Kanaventi and Steffen.

4.03: Approve Program Outline, Speakers, and Emcee for 2018 EDA Business Networking Event

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member LeTourneau stated that having Mr. Ro Schara as Keynote Speaker would be great. He asked for information on timing and when the decision would be made.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan estimated that by October 19th there will be a definite answer from the proposed Keynote Speaker. He stated that if the speaker cannot be booked, staff does have another suggestion for a speaker that would be pursued.

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Hardin, to approve the draft format of the event and flexibility to move date to accommodate Keynote Speaker for the 2018 EDA Business Networking Event.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chairperson Burandt, Members Riley, Hardin, Lambrecht, and LeTourneau. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Kanaventi and Steffen.

5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE

5.01: Receive Development Update

Community Development Director Gladhill provided a development update.

5.02: UpRiver: Anoka County Commercial Real Estate Broker Event (October 17, 2018)

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that Ms. Hajder mentioned an upcoming broker event which is taking place on October 17th. He stated that this is an opportunity for the communities of Anoka County to speak with brokers and recruit potential projects. If EDA members wish to attend they should contact staff to get signed up.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Hardin, seconded by Member Lambrecht, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Chairperson Burandt, Members Hardin, Lambrecht, LeTourneau, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Members Kanaventi and Steffen.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Sullivan
Economic Development Manager

ATTEST:

Tim Gladhill
Community Development Director

Draft by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.