

Economic Development Board meeting April 9, 2015

Present: Meissner, Dickrell, Michalski, Sennholz, Staab, Wagner
Absent: Hendler
Others: Alderperson Earll, Jason Angell, Karen Olson, Bob Trussoni, Mary James-Mork, Dan Knoeck

Sennholz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in Room 108 of the City Hall Plaza.

Approve minutes – March 5th and 25th

Wagner moved and Meissner seconded a motion to approve the March 5th and 25th minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Conflicts of interest

No members indicated that they had a conflict of interest with anything on the agenda.

Citizen comments

Sennholz invited comments from citizens, but no one spoke at this time.

Economic development reports

Angell and Staab updated the Board of the ongoing discussions with ACE Academy. School District Staff are very interested in the partnership and are continuing to work through things on their end. The next meeting related to this possible partnership will be conducted in May.

Quarterly Update on Service Contracts – MACF/Business Development Director

Olson distributed materials and summarized activities related to the service contract that EDB has entered into for services being delivered by MACF. Areas updated by Olson consisted of:

- Business Attraction/Marketing
- Business Creation/Entrepreneurial
- Business Retention/Expansion
- Workforce
- Real Estate
- Technology & Innovation

Olson distributed a brief survey that she plans to email out to area businesses to help her and the EDB better understand the “needs” for local small business development. The consensus of the Board was that this was a good approach and would help them to determine how the entrepreneurial funding (\$20,000) could be invested. With that understanding, Olson was asked to send out the survey and bring the results back in May or June.

Property Maintenance Standards

A memo prepared by Sam Schroeder was distributed to the Board summarizing discussions that have taken place since the March 5th EDB meeting. Angell and Knoeck further explained that staff who would be engaged in any program felt the best chance at gaining compliance was to provide some sort of funding assistance – low interest loan or grant.

The consensus of the Board was that they wanted to see some sort of program developed. Member's felt this was an important program to help establish community pride as well as a critical part of growing the value of the community. Wagner and Staab agreed to meet and prepare something that could be brought back to the May meeting for the Board to consider.

Rental Rating Program

James-Mork recommended that the individuals working on the property maintenance standards sit down with the individuals who are working on programs related to rental properties. Both groups are discussing similar issues and the benefit of merging their efforts will likely benefit both areas.

City Subdivision

Angell informed the Board that we are still in negotiations and that he had worked with Staab and Sennholz to develop and send a recent counter offer for the property of interest.

Staab suggested that we get a better understanding of what our total development costs would be before we accept any offer. The Board agreed.

“200 Block” Redevelopment

Knoeck brought forward a request from Earth Inc. who is interested in using the property as a temporary staging site while they reconstruct Maple Avenue. After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Board was to allow Earth Inc. to use the site as long as the agreement contained some sort of out clause that allowed us to begin redevelopment of the site if a project came forward before they vacated the site.

Closed Session

Angell informed the board that the closed session was not necessary as we were still waiting for a response from the property owner.

Set date and time for Strategic Planning Session

The Board agreed on Monday, May 18th from 11:30 – 3:00 PM. The meeting will be conducted in Room 108 of City Hall Plaza with lunch provided.

Announce next Board meeting date/time

Sennholz announced that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7th at 3:00 p.m. in Room 108 of City Hall Plaza.

With no more business before the Board, Wagner moved and Michalski seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Sennholz adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Angell, Honorary Secretary