

Economic Development Board meeting August 4, 2015

Present: Buttkke, Dickrell, Meissner, Sennholz, Staab, Trussoni, Wagner. Michalski arrived at 3:05 p.m.
Absent: None
Others: Angell, Barg, Eloranta, Olson

Sennholz called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. in Room 108 of the City Hall Plaza.

Approve minutes (3 sets)

Trussoni moved and Buttkke seconded a motion to approve 3 sets of minutes as follows:

- July 2nd – regular EDB meeting
- July 20th – special EDB meeting (budget)
- July 24th – 2nd Street Development Subcommittee meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen comments

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

Conflicts of interest

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

Quarterly update – Karen Olson, MACFI/Business Development Director

Olson presented and highlighted a quarterly update on activities she has been pursuing in areas of business attraction/retention, entrepreneurial assistance, workforce development, real estate, technology and innovation, and she addressed questions from Board members.

Discussion and possible action on 2015-2016 EDB priorities

- City housing subdivision: After reviewing Angell's draft memo on the city housing subdivision project, Dickrell moved and Meissner seconded the motion to approve releasing it to local media, Marshfield Utilities, and Wood County officials. Motion carried unanimously. This project will be kept on the radar screen going forward.
- ACE Academy Partnership: Angell and Staab recently met with school staff, and it was a good discussion. Their next meeting will include Superintendent Wells. The school seems interested, and students are willing and able to participate. This could occur in early 2016, but it is more likely in the fall semester of 2016.
- EDB Subcommittee: Barg apologized for not getting this team together sooner, but he said that a first meeting is anticipated during the next 2 weeks, and they're likely to meet twice before the next regular EDB meeting in early September.
- 200 block redevelopment: Angell noted that we are waiting for the outcome of the 2nd Street corridor plan. A developer remains interested in building on this site, and Angell has floated other possible locations, too. Wagner suggested that the Board might wish to reconsider giving \$1500 to Main Street for "flower power", and that perhaps the City's Parks & Recreation Department can water plants on that portion of downtown along Central Avenue.

- 2nd Street redevelopment: The team is looking at options to relocate the City garage and redevelop that section of downtown. A TIF district may be needed to finance a project of this size and scope, and this would likely have to be a multi-year plan.
- Recreational opportunities: This team hasn't met since the last EDB meeting. Matt McLean of Convention & Visitors Bureau is working to set up a meeting of various groups in our community who work on recreation issues.
- Local loan program: The team met and doesn't see a need for a local loan program, given what's offered by the existing regional loan fund we have in this area, since it has plenty of funds available, favorable terms, etc. Olson and Angell are looking at an "incubator" concept designed for new start-up businesses.

Announce next Board meeting date/time

After some discussion of schedule conflicts, it was agreed to hold the next Board meeting on Tuesday, September 1st at 2:30 p.m. in Room 108 of the City Hall Plaza.

With no other business before the Board, Buttke moved and Dickrell seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Sennholz adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Barg, City Administrator