

Economic Development Review Committee meeting  
August 31, 2011

Present: Angell, Barg, Cummings, James-Mork, Olson, Sonnemann, Wagner  
Absent: Meyer, Strey  
Others: Bill Penker

Barg called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room.

**Approve meeting minutes – August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Angell moved and Wagner seconded a motion to approve minutes from the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Improving communication and cooperation among economic development partners**

Significant discussion occurred on how the economic development partners might work together more closely and effectively. On communication, ideas included: representation on each other's boards, regular meetings of staff members, informal (coffee) gatherings of members from various boards, and "business roundtables". On cooperation, members discussed the need to craft a joint strategy, and hold each partner accountable for carrying out its portion of the plan. Regular reports were mentioned, but it was noted that for these to be worthwhile, they need to be clear, concise, and specific. Barg agreed to e-mail a list of ideas suggested, asking members to select and prioritize the most important ones. He will bring back the results for review and discussion at the Committee's next meeting.

**Guidelines to use local revolving loan fund for other economic development projects**

Barg highlighted the recent discussions of MEDA's RLF Committee on closing the local RLF, and using the funds for other economic development activities. Members generally agreed with the RLF Committee recommendations, and they also suggested funding the city portion of a joint grantwriter position (city, school district, CDA) with these monies.

(Sonnemann left the meeting at 10:57 a.m.)

James-Mork moved and Wagner seconded the motion to approve the RLF Committee's recommendations, with addition of a 3-year commitment to the joint grantwriter position, and forward this to Council for action at its September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**Upcoming Committee meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. At that time, members will reschedule the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, due to a conflict with the fall WEDA conference.

With no more pending business, Angell moved and Olson seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0. Barg declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Barg  
City Administrator