

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EDA BOARD AUGUST 15, 2013, AT 6:00 P.M.,
AT CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Thom Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Grady Clark, Charles Snustead, Mary Chapman, Genny Reynolds, and Victoria Hallin. Staff present was Carie Fuhrman and Mary Lou DeWitt.

Absent was Cindy Riddle.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 25, 2013

CHAPMAN MOVED, SECOND BY CLARK, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES ON JULY 25, 2013, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: PAGE 4, THE MIDDLE OF THE PAGE IT SHOULD READ "CHAPMAN SAID PHASE TWO OF "IT STARTS HERE" ARE THERE ANY VACANT SPOTS DOWNTOWN REMAINING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Aero Business Park Listing on MnCAR (via GPS 45:93)

Fuhrman said she has contacted MnCAR (Minnesota Commercial Real Estates) and they will list the vacant business locations and Aero Business Park on their site. She listed Aero Business Park lot prices as negotiable.

Chapman said she worked at a temp job and they had received a post card advertising Industrial Park land in another area. Chapman asked if she could have the post card to bring tonight. She passed it around for the EDA Board to review. The caption on the card said, "Are you growing out of your space". It mentioned there were business incentives available for eligible projects.

The EDA Board discussed the possibility for using that for Aero Business Park. Different possibilities were mentioned and could be looked into in the coming months.

B. Grow MN Visit Results To Date

Fuhrman said this is a visit results summary from Grow Minnesota from 2012-August of 2013. There have been ten visits completed. The information that has been collected from the visits is given to Grow MN and they have composed this summary. This is state wide list. Ten businesses in Princeton said they created new products in the last year. Seven businesses in Princeton said they will create new products in the next year. Eight Princeton area businesses have reported trouble recruiting so far in 2012-2013.

Fuhrman encouraged the EDA Board if they would like to come along for the business visits they are welcome.

Hallin said if there was a visit setup in the morning hours, she would join that visit.

C. Minnesota Manufacturer's Week

Fuhrman had included a flyer from Positively Minnesota where it is promoting Minnesota Manufacturers week of October 20-26th. They encourage communities, local and regional

Chambers of Commerce, trade associations, companies, and others to make the week with special events recognizing the economic importance of the sector. They included information available on their website to help plan events.

Fuhrman said the Chamber would like to recognize the manufactures at their October luncheon. Fuhrman would like to recognize them also through the Economic Development Authority and was considering putting together a postcard and sending it out to the manufacturing businesses. The postcard could ask for feedback from the businesses on possible events to recognize their business. Maybe a tour could be arranged.

Snustead said a common thread in years past was kids graduating with some type of training where they can go from high school into industrial work with knowledge of machinery.

Fuhrman said there are a couple industries in the Industrial Park working with the school to help this happen.

Snustead asked what the relationship is between the City and School District.

Fuhrman goes to a lot of meeting with the School District. She did the "Safe Route to School Program" with them.

Hallin said a road block for learning a trade in school is they would have to hire another teacher to teach that class. They do not have the money to do that. This may be the best time to work with the School District. They are having their long range planning now so groups are being setup and this could be mentioned.

Snustead suggested inviting teachers from the woodworking and machinist classes to see if any program could be put together to start a training. He asked Fuhrman to check to see if there are any grants available to start a program.

Walker asked Snustead if he would put together a questionnaire on what he would like to ask the school faculty. He commented that Ginger Glenn was looking at this type of program some time ago. They are doing a "Shadow Program" now.

Fuhrman was unsure of the direction the EDA Board wanted to take. Do they want her to invite tech teachers and administration or first get information together on what we would like to ask them. Fuhrman proposed to put together what the School District is doing and are they working with the Industrial programs currently.

Chapman said machine knowledge is what she had heard they needed. There are college credit classes you can take for free while you are in high school. She believes they also can use the same type of credit classes to get a trade in a tech school. If that is available, how is the school promoting it.

Fuhrman believes it is important how the business advertises their job opening.

Walker said he will see Joe Glenn at the Airport Board meeting and will ask him what his business is doing with working with the school and how that is going.

Fuhrman will add this to next month's agenda. Those who are looking into information can share it at that time.

D. September EDA Meeting Date

Fuhrman said that she will be gone at a conference in Rochester, September 18, 19, and 20. The regular EDA Board meeting will be held on September 19, 2013. Would the Board like to reschedule the meeting or should she ask the City Administrator to take her place at the meeting. If the EDA would like to reschedule the meeting, Fuhrman asked if September 26th would work at 6:00 till 7:00 before the City Council meets.

Reynolds said she will be at another meeting on September 26th.

CHAPMAN MOVED, SECOND BY HALLIN, TO CHANGE THE EDA BOARD MEETING DATE TO SEPTEMBER 24TH, TUESDAY, AT 6:00 PM. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Fuhrman thanked the EDA Board for their cooperation and will send an email to remind them of the date change and will have it posted.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. RFP for Demolition of Former Bergstrom Home

Fuhrman put together a request for proposal for 809 9th Avenue North, house demolition. This is the former Bergstrom property. The NSP funding will be used to pay for the demolition. If the EDA Board is okay with the proposal she has put together, they would need to make a motion for staff to send it out.

HALLIN MOVED, SECOND BY CHAPMAN TO HAVE STAFF SEND OUT THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR 809 9TH AVENUE NORTH FOR A HOUSE DEMOLITION. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Clark asked what properties it was that was pulled from the Sherriff's sale. He was told 903 9th Avenue North and the pond area in Meadow View Development.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A. EDA Balance Sheet

The EDA Board had no comments.

B. Verbal Report

(1) Aero Business Park Rezoning Update

The Planning Commission reviewed the application for rezoning from B-2 Neighborhood Business District to B-3 General Business District at Aero Business Park. They approved the rezoning and have forward it on to the City Council. The City Council has introduced the first reading and will be holding the second.

(2) Small Cities Development Program Update

Fuhrman said the Intern has posted handouts around town to bring more interest to this program. There will also be information on it in the Princeton Utility billing. Fuhrman would like each EDA Board member to tell three people about this program and hopefully we will get some grant money. We need to show interest before applying for the funds. The money would be available in 2014. Lakes and Pines will be administrating it. The area will be half of the City. The last time the commercial area was just downtown. We first need to identify an area that is in need. She believes the neighborhood areas would be approximately six blocks. A business does not need to have income requirements.

(3) It Starts Here (Round 2) Update

The second round will be starting soon.

(4) New Business Update

Fuhrman informed the EDA Board that there is a few new businesses that opened in town. The first one is "Paws Up For You" that is located in the old City Liquor Store building. This business is a dog daycare, pet supplies, dog grooming, and dog training. Another business that opened is "Renew" that is located by the Book and Bible store. They sell new and used clothing and accessories. The last one is "Wilson Sports" and that business is located in the Princeton Mall. They make sports logo wear. There will be an Upholstery Shop going into the Praught building on First Street.

Reynolds said maybe he could work with Shipwreck if they do not do upholstery.

(5) Princeton Chamber Update

Fuhrman said the Princeton Chamber is going through a strategic project training. There is a Downtown Committee that meets at Louise's Basement and the next meeting date is August 27th, at 11:00 AM.

C. City Council and Planning Commission Minutes for July

The EDA Board had no comments.

Clark asked on the old Ben Franklin building if Crystal Cabinets is planning to go in there.

Fuhrman said the church is still in there. She does not have any additional information on what Crystal Cabinets is planning.

CHAPMAN MOVED, SECOND BY REYNOLDS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:11 P.M.

ATTEST:

Thom Walker, President

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant