

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EDA BOARD HELD ON AUGUST 21, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M.,
AT PRINCETON CITY HALL**

The meeting was called to order by Thom Walker. Members present were Charles Snustead, Cindy Riddle, Mary Chapman, and Grady Clark. Staff present were Carie Fuhrman (Comm. Dev. Director) and Mary Lou DeWitt (Comm. Dev. Assistant).

Absent were Victoria Hallin and Genny Reynolds.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 10, 2014

RIDDLE MOVED, SECOND BY CHAPMAN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2014. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

A. NSP Update

Fuhrman informed the EDA Board that the State is at City Hall for today and tomorrow auditing the NSP Program. The former Bergstrom property at 908 9th Avenue North and the former gas station at 903 9th Avenue North have been demolished. It is going well. They removed the asbestos on both. The Javelin Group was hired to oversee the gas station demo and they did find two tanks on the northeast side of the gas station. Fuhrman is checking if they need to be removed or if they can be filled. There may be a septic tank on the Bergstrom property. She is checking if the tank could be crushed on the bottom were the seepage can run through. It would be up to the person redeveloping the site that would have to remove them. West Branch can remove a septic tank, but now fuel tanks. She will ask them what the cost would be to remove a septic tank. Fuhrman will also get the price to remove fuel tanks.

Walker and Riddle commented that they would like the septic tank removed if possible with the NSP funds.

Fuhrman said she will look into grants that could cover the fuel tank removal. If we were to look at redeveloping this area, we will have to look for other funding for it. The NSP staff would like any extra funds to go towards the old Arcadian Homes site. She will look into the cost of removing the fuel tanks and if there is any funding available for it. She will check with NSP staff and see what they say about removing the tanks, and if she could use the NSP funds, would she need three bids. Fuhrman will have the information at the next meeting and will update the EDA Board.

CHAPMAN MOVED, SECOND BY WALKER, TO APPROVE STAFF TO HAVE THE SEPTIC TANK REMOVED AT 908 9TH AVENUE NORTH (FORMER BERGSTROM PROPERTY) WITH THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$500. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Fuhrman informed the EDA Board that the Princeton Public Utilities said if there is no participation from the City with the water looping by the old Arcadian Homes site, they will want to do it in two phases. The request for bids will be done this winter. The project should be completed this spring. There needs to be more discussion with Princeton Public Utilities and the City. This looping would also go down by Hy Tech where it will increase the water flow for the whole area.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2013/2014 Sherburne Co. Countywide Commercial/Industrial Projects

Sherburne County has put a list together of other cities in the county for 2013/2014 Commercial and Industrial projects. The City of Princeton list does not include the Fairview addition or Caribou Coffee. Princeton has had quite a few commercial expansions in Sherburne County. Fuhrman found the list interesting and wanted to share it with the EDA Board.

B. Sherburne County Economic Development Strategic Plan

Fuhrman said this is from Sherburne County who has finished their Economic Development Strategic three year plan for 2014-2016. From all the input provided, seven themes emerged as leading economic development priorities and one of those was broad-band and Sherburne County did a survey on it. Fuhrman had sent out that survey to local businesses in town. Another item she found interesting is Sherburne County is developing an Economic Fund policy to disperse money. This could be important with us looking at developing our Industrial Park.

Fuhrman said Mille Lacs County is going through and Economic Strategic Plan as well and they are going into more depth with it. They will put something together like Sherburne County did.

C. Commuter Information

Fuhrman said this information was gathered with the Regional Housing Project Study. The Work Destination Report shows where workers are employed who live in the selected area. In 2011 the City of Princeton survey count was 476 which was 33.7% of primary employed in the area. Fuhrman thought a larger amount would be working in the metropolitan area, and was pleased with the number that work in Princeton.

Riddle would like to know where Princeton pull its workers from if we are attracting 22 from the Minneapolis area and sending only eight into Minneapolis area to work.

Chapman asked what they classify as a primary job.

Fuhrman said maybe if there is someone with two jobs, which is their primary job.

Walker said it is good information and could fit into somewhere for facts about the area.

Riddle would like to have it broken down more of where they are going into for work.

Fuhrman will look into it. She will ask the Deed analysis and he will get it for her.

Riddle noticed on one of the survey sheets that has job counts by places for primary jobs, at the bottom of the column it has "all other locations". She would like to know what the other locations are.

D. Results from "Outdoor Community Night"/MDT Weekend Invitation

Fuhrman said a survey was taken at the Outdoor Community Night to share with the Minnesota Design Team on what the community would like and what they believe should be changed.

Fuhrman said on the questionnaire where it ask the person to name three things you like about Princeton, Rum River was the highest response on the survey, and then came parks and such.

The second part of the survey was name the things you want to change in Princeton. The vacant store fronts being filled was the highest on the list, and they would like better sidewalk maintenance and safer crosswalks. A movie theatre and more retail were also wanted.

The third part of the survey was what would you like Princeton to look like in 20 years. There was quite a few responses that wanted to keep the small town feel. An outdoor pool was high on the list and so were connecting walking trails.

Fuhrman was happy with the turn out. She believes there were approximately 140-150 people that attended. The outdoor community night theatre was very helpful in bringing the amount of people together. The information collected will be given to the Minnesota Design Team.

Clark asked if there were any marketing ideas for Princeton.

Fuhrman said the focus of the discussion was on the visual of what is seen in Princeton. There were seven small groups that did the survey.

Riddle commented that the City community sign might not be dead. There has been talk that it may be a possibility.

Fuhrman said that is true. The City and the School District have it in their budget so it is not dead.

MICELLANEOUS:

A. EDA Balance Sheet

The EDA Board had no comments.

B. Verbal Report

1) RRHS Computers Update

Fuhrman said the computers from Rum River Health Services have been cleaned out and are in storage. We are waiting till the bankruptcy court gives us the permission to use them. They are recommending K-bid to sell them. The Library may be looking at new computers and she will ask them if they would be interested in them. A former Rum River Health Care employee is interested in one of them.

Mary Chapman said she would be interested in one of them.

2) Industrial Park Expansion Update

Fuhrman said she has a draft request for proposals put together and has a consultant who will review it. The consultant just wants to be on the list when the proposals go out. She has this as one big project. She will make a list of who wants to expand and how much of an expansion they need. She needs an idea of the overall cost to expand the Industrial Park. If it were done all at once there would be others partnering in the information. She asked WSB the City Engineer firm to have their economic guy to give a ballpark figure. Connexus Energy wants a ballpark figure also on the project.

Walker commented that this would be necessary before any developers would want to come in.

Fuhrman said she talked to Jenna King, Sherburne County and she said the City would have to do the Industrial Park expansion. A developer would most likely not want to go into this type of project. Fuhrman said she has had inquiries from interested parties to bring their business here, but they have wanted a building on a site.

Snustead said a building on a lot is more secure for the business.

3) "EDA Member Challenge"

Fuhrman said she came up with this idea and wanted to present it to the EDA Board. She likes to stop into businesses to say hello whenever possible. The Mayor and her chat once a week and they have talked about how to change the media attention that the City is not business friendly. Fuhrman is asking the EDA Board members if they are comfortable with stopping into a business and introducing themselves and asking the business if they need anything to tell them to call her. As the EDA Board, she would like them to get their faces out there if they are comfortable with the idea.

C. City Council and Planning Commission Minutes for July, 2014

The EDA Board had no comments.

SNUSTEAD MOVED, SECOND BY CHAPMAN, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.

ATTEST:

Thom Walker, President

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant