

Harmony EDA Minutes

March 2, 2023
7:30 AM

Community Center
Council Room

Present: Kerry Kingsley, Steve Donney, Andy Batstone, Greg Schieber, and Michael Himlie

Also Present: Allan Dahl, Erica Thilges, Amy Bishop, Aaron Bishop, and Chris Giesen

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by Kerry Kingsley.

Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes of the February 2, 2023 meeting. Motion by Himlie, second by Kingsley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports & Claims

The board reviewed the loan portfolio. All loans were current. There were no payment claims.

Giesen discussed upgrading to a specialized loan software to help improve efficiency and eliminate possibilities for entry error. A new system would potentially save time for the city clerk. Batstone suggested that before approval, the board should make sure there is a robust report feature for easy review of the entire loan portfolio and that we aren't duplicating efforts inadvertently somewhere. Consensus of the board was to investigate options.

Bike Trail Project Update

The board reviewed the status of the bike trail project. Giesen reported that bills have not yet been introduced at the Capitol for additional funding. Donney said he would reach out to our legislators as mayor to inquire regarding the status of the bills. Giesen said once bills are introduced, he would schedule meetings with the appropriate committee members at the Capitol and seek local volunteers to assist.

Giesen reported that he is nearly finished with the LCCMR grant application which is due March 31. A resolution authorizing the grant submission will be sent to council for consideration at the March meeting. Giesen recommended that based on today's estimated project costs, the funding availability date if successful (July 2024), a conservative construction timeline of summer 2025, and including inflation based on a state agency construction calculator, the city should apply for \$5.5 million. This should be enough to complete the entire project whether or not the current funding remains available. The board discussed.

Industrial Park Maintenance

Giesen reported that he had received a quote to remove the fence line and brush in the industrial park 2nd Addition from Randy Barnes and was waiting on a second quote from Tom Davis. The quote received from Barnes was for \$4,000 - \$4,500 and would include

removing the metal fence and stockpiling the brush elsewhere in the industrial park for the city to dry and burn at a later date. Barnes could begin work soon. The board discussed. It was agreed that this seemed reasonable given scope of the work and that it needs to be completed to make the recently platted lots attractive for sale. Giesen noted the industrial park fund has the ability to cover the expense.

Consensus of the board was to see what the second quote looks like before moving forward. Motion by Batstone, second by Schieber to authorize the board chair to approve the bid for grubbing the fence line and brush in the industrial park 2nd Addition based on his judgement of the two quotes. Motion carried unanimously.

Giesen also reported that he has reached out to several people to inquire about planting grass or prairie on the industrial park 2nd Addition ground. It was to be determined what kind of grass should be planted based on cost and end result/future maintenance. Discussion occurred as to whether Outlot A should also be planted with prairie grass to eliminate mowing. He has also discussed options and preferences with the public works department. Giesen will continue to gather information for review.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Erica Thilges gave the chamber report. A tourism map is being created as a supplement to the visitor guide. The chamber is working with the school district to hold a career exploration day and discussed several recent and upcoming events including the CEDA marketing class held at Harmony Spirits last evening, which had 71 registrants. The chamber continues to look at providing other learning opportunities to members.

Prospects/Community Update

Giesen gave an update on prospects. He noted that a construction firm indicated that they would be submitting a purchase agreement for the 2.4 acre lot in the industrial park 2nd Addition, to build a headquarters and shop. This business has been working in the area but would like to relocate their headquarters to Harmony. He anticipates the offer to be ready for review at the April meeting.

The board reviewed a current project and priority list assembled by Giesen. Consensus was that it looked good and the priorities were appropriate.

There was no other business.

Hearing no objections, Kingsley adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2023 at 7:30 AM at the Community Center.