

Harmony EDA Minutes

February 7, 2013
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

Present: Chris Skaalen, Steve Cremer, Steve Donney, Deb Swenson, and Andy Batstone

Also Present: Theresa Knutson, Emily Ellis, Mark Dixon, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen

Meeting was called to order 7:32 AM by Chris Skaalen

Minutes

Motion by Cremer, second by Swenson to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports and Claims

Giesen gave an update on revolving loans. Giesen also gave a final report on the commercial rehabilitation program. Through the commercial rehab program, Giesen reported that a total of \$379,221.21 was spent on commercial property improvements. \$191,043.37 was spent with Harmony businesses, \$123,915.76 was spent with businesses in the Harmony area, and \$64,262.08 was spent with businesses outside of the area. Motion by Donney, second by Swenson to approve the financial. Motion carried unanimously.

Prospects

Giesen discussed some prospects.

Heritage Grove

Theresa Knutson was present to discuss Heritage Grove. Theresa gave the operations report. She noted that there was one new vacancy in independent living.

Donney gave the board an update from a recent meeting with facility residents. He asked the board what could be done to keep happy hour as a regular activity, as well as some facility maintenance questions that were raised by residents. Consensus of the board was to work with Oxford to address issues to keep some form of happy hour going and other maintenance issues.

Chamber

Emily gave the chamber report. She mentioned that the chamber will not be pursuing billboard advertising this year because of its expense; the chamber will look into building its own billboard. Illg said he would contact the billboard company to notify them about the current condition of their signs.

The board was given an update on the chamber's annual meeting.

Emily also mentioned that she will be participating in the "Trail Day" at the Minnesota Capitol to raise awareness about the Harmony Trail needs with legislators.

Heritage Grove

Mark Dixon was present to discuss the financials of Heritage Grove. He said that Oxford was actively working with the state to collect outstanding medical assistance payments, but was not having as much success with the state as they had hoped.

Mark also mentioned that there might be a sale offer coming forward within the next few days.

EDA Strategic Planning

The board conducted a SWOT analysis to take an assessment of current issues and ideas in the community. This was part 2 of 3 of a strategic planning session that the board is undertaking. At the next meeting, the board will use information from parts 1 and 2 to generate an action plan to move forward future projects. Once the action plan is formed the board intends to meet jointly with the city council and planning and zoning to discuss next steps.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 9:29 AM.