

Harmony EDA Minutes

October 2, 2014
7:30 AM

Community Center
Council Room

Present: Chris Skaalen, Deb Swenson, Steve Donney, Andy Batstone, and Kerry Kingsley.

Also present: Becky Hoff, Jill Fishbauger, Elliot Culp, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:36 AM by Chris Skaalen.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 4, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Swenson, second by Kingsley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

The status of loans were discussed. In particular, the delinquent Harmony Plumbing and Heating loan was discussed. Consensus of the board was that action had to be taken since terms set in previous board actions had not been met. Motion by Donney, second by Swenson to direct the City Attorney to write a letter to Harmony Plumbing and Heating indicating that payment on its loan was due in full and to draft necessary paperwork to secure payment, including filing a judgment against the owner if necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills for the Fillmore County recording fees related to the Otsby loan of \$57.50 and \$46.00 as well the 4th quarter bill of \$6,628.98 for CEDA's economic development staffing services were discussed. Motion by Donney, second by Skaalen to approve the payments. Motion carried unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Becky Hoff gave the chamber report. She mentioned that she was officially named the chamber director this past month. The board congratulated her. She reported that the Taste of the Trail went well and also gave an update on other events from the past month. She discussed her efforts to meet with new businesses and to show them the benefits of joining the Chamber. The board suggested taking other business owners with her to such meetings which would give a more personal, in-depth representation of the benefits of Chamber membership.

2015 Marketing

Marketing opportunities for 2015 were discussed. Jill Fishbauger discussed the "Experience Harmony" project status and the survey that was currently underway. It was discussed that the survey was to help prioritize projects, goals, and ideas that the community felt strongly about. The survey would also be a way to communicate those ideas to leaders. The board asked to see the results of the survey at its next meeting.

Prospects

Giesen gave an update on prospects. He mentioned that there was no buyer at the county auction for the Harmony Cold Storage property, and that the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota had visited; they were looking to use Harmony for pilot housing programs.

The programs would likely focus on the rehabilitation of existing older homes that preserve the character of the community.

Giesen also mentioned that Slim's Woodshed notified him that he would be retiring and closing the museum/woodshed. Giesen had been discussing how to best move forward on this issue with a number of people in the community. It was suggested that the essential information on a potential sale should be put together so a potential buyer could easily understand the business and its value.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 9:18 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2014 at 7:30 AM in the Council Room at the Community Center.