

Harmony EDA Minutes

May 1, 2014
7:30 AM

Community Center
Council Room

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

Also present: Melissa Vander Plaas, Jill Fishbaugher, Emily Ellis, Ron Zeigler, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen.

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

Minutes

The minutes of the April 3, 2014 meeting was reviewed. Motion by Kingsley, second by Donney to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

The status of loans were discussed. Motion by Donney to accept the report and approve the payment claim as requested. Second by Batstone. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed a request from WildCat Properties to modify payments to 6 months of interest only, beginning with payments due in May 2014. The board discussed. Motion by Donney, second by Batstone to approve the payment modification as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Update from CEDA

Mr. Ron Zeigler, President/CEO of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) was present and gave the board a brief update on CEDA happenings and thanked them for their many years of partnership.

Industrial Park Purchase Offer

Giesen gave an update on the Industrial Park offer from the Overland Group. He presented a preliminary project assessment from the City Engineer which detailed cost estimates for infrastructure and moving the retention pond of approximately \$300,000 - \$400,000. Giesen also explained that the City Engineer reported that the site layout proposed by the developer would cause for additional infrastructure that would be unnecessary for development of the same acreage. The board discussed the report at length, including many possible alternative layouts and scenarios to best leverage the Overland Group's project with opening of Phase II and possibly Phase III of the Industrial Park. Consensus was that if the developer was willing to cover the additional infrastructure costs for their proposed site plan, the board would entertain accommodating their project in the Industrial Park. Giesen would report back to the board any new information.

Residential Housing Incentive

Giesen presented two quotes for signage advertising the residential building rebate program. For 50 small plastic yard signs with stakes, a quote from Letterwerks in Decorah, IA totaled \$425 and a quote from Kelly Printing in Preston, MN totaled \$271 plus shipping. The board discussed. Motion by Donney, second by Kingsley to approve the purchase of signs per the quote from Kelly Printing. Motion carried unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Ellis gave the Chamber report. 4th of July event planning was progressing well. She mentioned various marketing efforts currently underway; in particular a new Minnesota Public Radio ad that would start in June. Ellis said she would work with Giesen on the ad content. She also mentioned that the Chamber was considering creating a new TV ad.

The board discussed the Niagara Cave Billboards on each end of town. It was suggested that staff could talk with Niagara Cave owners to see if they would be open to the EDA placing some kind of sign on the back.

Ellis thanked Kwik Trip for helping with the Easter Egg hunt this year; specifically for their donation of discounted food for the event.

Prospects

Giesen gave an update on prospects.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Motion by Kingsley, second by Skaalen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2014 at 7:30 AM in the Council Room at the Community Center.