

Harmony EDA Minutes

June 5, 2014
7:30 AM

Community Center
Council Room

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

Also present: Emily Ellis, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen.

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

Minutes

The minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting was reviewed. Motion by Swenson, second by Kingsley to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

The status of loans were discussed. It was noted that Harmony Plumbing and Heating's loan was still past due. It was mentioned that Donney had discussed the situation with the buyer and suggested a \$100 monthly payment and forgive the interest on the loan to assist. The board discussed. Motion by Donney to modify Harmony Plumbing and Heating's loan payments to \$100 per month by ACH payment and forgive the interest if payments are set up with the first due date by the end of June 2014. The motion died for a lack of a second. The board discussed further, motion by Swenson to modify Harmony Plumbing and Heating's loan payments to \$100 per month of principal and interest by ACH payment if the first payment was set to be due by the end of June 2014. Second by Skaalen. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed two payment requests: \$60 to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the annual permit renewal of the elevator billboard and \$10,000 for the second half 2014 Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce EDA funding allocation. It was also noted that the Chamber received a donation of \$1,000 from Schriever Farms for bailing hay in the industrial park. Motion by Donney, second by Swenson to accept the financial report and pay the claims as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Industrial Park Purchase Offer

Giesen gave an update on the Industrial Park offer from the Overland Group. He mentioned that the buyers were no longer interested as they had found a private land owner that would be willing to sell. Giesen will keep the board updated on this project.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Ellis gave the Chamber report and an update on the events for the 4th of July festivities. She noted that First Southeast Bank generously donated more funds for various events and music at the festival; she said that the expense keeps going up and it's difficult to find money each year just to keep the same level of activities.

She reported that the new TV ads are out. Two different ads will run on KIMT & WXOW.

Ellis said that she had accepted an offer for a full time position and will be leaving the Chamber; her last day will be June 19. The board thanked her for her service. The board said she did a great job and accomplished a lot to bring the Chamber up to speed. They said she did a great job working with the EDA to better Harmony and the community and wished her the best of luck in her new position.

Prospects

Giesen gave an update on prospects. He mentioned that it might not be possible to get a "THANK YOU FOR VISITING" sign on the back of the Niagara Cave signs on Highway 52. He said Niagara Cave was willing, but they have a special use permit from MnDOT that wouldn't allow any additional language on the sign.

Giesen mentioned that housing rebate signs were out and available for anyone interested. He also gave an update on the DMC community roundtable meetings and said the housing rebate has been receiving good media coverage.

Other Business

Consensus of the board was to cancel the July regular meeting because of the conflict with the 4th of July. They asked staff to call a special meeting if any immediate issues were needed to be reviewed.

Adjournment

Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 8:58 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2014 at 7:30 AM in the Council Room at the Community Center.