

Harmony EDA Minutes

September 4, 2014
7:30 AM

Community Center
Council Room

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

Also present: Becky Hoff, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM by Chris Skaalen.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting was reviewed. Motion by Swenson, second by Donney to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Kingsley entered the meeting at 7:37 AM.

Financial Report

The status of loans were discussed. The delinquent Harmony Plumbing and Heating loan was discussed. The board discussed calling the note and directing the City Attorney to proceed with collection. Consensus of the board was to give the borrower one month to produce payment before moving forward with collections. Motion by Donney second by Kingsley to approve the financial report and give Harmony Plumbing and Heating one month to produce payment before calling the note due. Motion carried unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Becky Hoff gave the chamber report. The 2015 budget was discussed as well as Chamber marketing activities. Consensus of the board was to give the Chamber \$2,500 more for the 2015 budget and reduce the EDA's 2015 marketing budget by the same amount. It was the board's hope that this would give the Chamber more flexibility when special projects come up and not require them to have to ask the EDA for additional funding throughout the year.

Small Cities Grant Application

Giesen discussed the small cities grant application possibility. He said that the State had encouraged Harmony to submit another application and Giesen wanted to know if the board would support it. It would be for residential rehab-type projects to income qualifying residents in a targeted neighborhood. He mentioned that CEDA would facilitate the re-application at no cost to the City. He also mentioned that the board would have to provide match funds to be competitive; that last year the City pledged \$25,000 from the electric fund to go towards improvements that would give the City energy efficiency credits. Such credits are requirements for electric providers such as the City. The board discussed at length. Some members felt that the City shouldn't be providing dollars to home owners that haven't kept-up their homes. Motion by Donney second by Swenson to request a match of \$25,000 from the City and apply for the residential small cities development grant. Motion carried 3-1, Kingsley voting No.

2015 Marketing

Giesen discussed various marketing opportunities for 2015 including print ads, trade shows, and similar activities. He suggested the board focus more on land/community

development/quality of life type marketing activities since the Chamber focuses on tourism marketing. The board discussed. Giesen mentioned that the EDA could join the Rochester Area Builders Association which has a no-cost membership option for local governments. Motion by Donney, second by Skaalen to join the Rochester Area Builders Association. Motion carried unanimously.

Consensus of the board was to discuss future marketing activities at the next meeting.

House Donation

Donney made a motion to pay the remaining balance of the residential house donation that was previously held back to cover miscellaneous costs associated with the project be paid to the Harmony Area Community Foundation. Second by Skaalen. Motion carried unanimously.

2015 Budget

The board discussed the 2015 budget. Motion by Skaalen, second by Swenson to approve the same budget for 2015 as 2014 with the only revisions being a reduction in the marketing budget by \$2,500 and an increase to the Chamber of Commerce by \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Prospects

Giesen gave an update on prospects. He mentioned that the Mileage gas station was currently vacant and for sale. He said that the owner was interested in all options and potentially a land swap. The board discussed. Consensus of the board was that they would like to see the property stay in private hands, unless there was an immediate need for a larger project. The board asked that staff talk to the owner and offer to help market the property.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Motion by Kingsley, second by Swenson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2014 at 7:30 AM in the Council Room at the Community Center.