

Harmony EDA Minutes

January 8, 2015
7:30 AM

Community Center
Council Room

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

Also present: Jill Fishbaugher, Beck Hoff, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen

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

Election of Officers

The board considered the annual election of officers. Motion by Kingsley, second by Swenson to keep the officers the same as in 2014. Motion carried unanimously. The board officers were duly reelected as follows: Chris Skaalen, President; Steve Donney, Vice President; and Deb Swenson, Treasurer.

Skaalen reappointed Swenson and Batstone to the loan committee. No other committees were created.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 4, 2014 meeting was reviewed. Motion by Swenson, second by Donney to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Batstone entered the meeting at 7:37 AM.

Financial Report

The status of loans were discussed. There was one payment claim for first quarter 2015 economic development staffing services in the amount of \$6,827.75 from CEDA. Motion by Kingsley, second by Donney to approve the financial report and pay the claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Open Topic Discussion

Skaalen lead the member open discussion. He asked that board members use this time to talk about current issues or new ideas for projects to work on.

The board discussed potential opportunities to assist a dental practice to open in Harmony. The conversation lead into a discussion about the joint Experience Harmony meeting. Staff was directed to poll board members for their availability on 2/11 and 2/18 and invite the City Council and Fillmore Central School Board. Consensus of the board was to set the agenda for this joint meeting at the February EDA meeting and base it off of the community survey that was recently completed.

Request from Business for Letter of Support

Giesen explained that the CEO of Sterling Drug had requested letters of support for a variance request that they had submitted to the State Board of Pharmacy that would allow Sterling to install telepharmacy technology at their Harmony store. He continued that he had coordinated several letters of support being submitted from key community members. Giesen said that Sterling's requests have been denied and that now it would go

the full state board for review. He said that Sterling requested one or two representatives of the City attend the meeting which is scheduled for January 21 in Minneapolis. Consensus of the board was to attend and staff would coordinate further information. It was also suggested that other state broadband initiatives might be supportive of this effort.

Trail Project Update

Giesen reported that the trail project was continuing forward momentum but that one potential issue with a landowner was causing additional work for the committee. The committee will continue to work to execute options to purchase with all landowners necessary to complete the trail corridor.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Becky Hoff gave the chamber report. She informed the board on the status of the 2015 membership drive, which was on target with previous years.

2015 Goals & Objectives

Consensus of the board was that 2015 goals and objectives would be framed by the outcome of the joint board meeting held in February.

Prospects

Giesen discussed prospects. He mentioned that he and Illg had been discussing a possible sale of land in the industrial park for a maintenance and operations facility for Tri County Electric. The board discussed. Illg presented different lot layout options and said the business asked if the board had any preference on its location. Illg also mentioned that the time line for the project was still not known. Consensus of the board was that they preferred the project to be located on Block 1 Lot 3, but were OK if the business decided to go elsewhere. The board asked staff to discuss opportunities for the business to purchase an option on the property.

Giesen said that the EDA's small city block grant application was requested to proceed to a full application and that the EDA's USDA community facility grant application for a siren and emergency generator was funded in the amount of \$35,000.

Adjournment

Motion by Donney, second by Kingsley to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2015 at 7:30 AM in the Council Room at the Community Center.