

Harmony EDA Minutes

December 8, 2016
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

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

Also Present: Jerome Illg and Chris Giesen

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

Minutes

Motion by Kingsley second by Donney, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports & Claims

Illg and Giesen discussed the loan fund; they reported that all loans were current.

Giesen presented an application for a new loan from Run Right Power Equipment, LLC. The business proposed to purchase the small engine division of Kingsley Mercantile and move it to the Mileage Gas Station site where it would be able to grow and expand its offerings. The loan request was for \$25,000 at 3.5% APR fixed for a term of 7 years and would fund inventory, equipment, and some building improvements. Security on the loan would be personal guarantees from the owners, Quentin and Glenn Unruh, as well as liens on vehicles totaling about \$25,500. The total project cost was estimated at \$225,000. Giesen reported that the loan committee reviewed the application and recommended approval. The board discussed the project. Motion by Donney, second by Swenson to approve the loan as requested. Motion carried 2-0. Skaalen and Kingsley abstained.

Chamber of Commerce

The board reviewed the following report submitted from the Chamber Director:

***Membership Drive-** As of 12-5-16 (2017/2016) Business 63/69, Non Profit 14/16, Individual 7/16. An individual membership mailer was just sent out with the telephone bill. Business memberships may go slightly up this year, I do still need to speak with some businesses about renewal.*

***Guidebook-** Is underway, income is on par with what we had anticipated.*

***Trail Towns-** Group met on 11-15-16 in Whalen for their yearly retreat. Same elected officers as 2016, including myself as treasurer. Harmony is not an overnight stop this year but will be a lunch stop for the July regional bike ride. Harmony will be asked to set up welcome committee/table on the day the riders are in Harmony.*

***Events-** Recent Events include November 19th's Holiday Fest at FCHS. 50 vendors booked, 2nd gym filled, record attendance. Will aim to repeat this and continue improving upon the event for next year. We will look for*

afternoon entertainment to increase afternoon sales. I will continue to work with Carrie M. from the school on this event.

***Breakfast w/ Santa** was held on Sat, Dec 3rd. Event was well attended. Lions ran out of pancakes, we took in \$216 in photo money. Will put up signs in hallway next year to direct people to the correct line for photos vs. pancakes.*

***Other-January Annual Meeting-** Booked Golf Course for Wed, Jan 18th – formal invitations will be coming out soon. Please consider attending, input is always appreciated. We will be offering food as we did for our September roundtable discussion.*

January projects will include continued work on the guidebook, updating our web presence on various tourism sites, listings and Harmony's website content, hosting a promotions committee meeting to discuss our events and promotions for 2017, including the 4th of July and Haunted Harmony. In February I will begin the grant reporting process for our 2016 EMT grant.

Becky will be out of the office from December 23th through January 5th.

Dentist Attraction Project

The board discussed possible next steps in its dentist attraction project. Giesen presented information on possible advertisements and suggested that the board develop an advertising strategy to move forward on. Consensus was to develop a yearlong marketing strategy and bring it back at a future meeting.

2017 Goals and Objectives

Giesen asked the board to begin thinking about 2017 goals and objectives for projects. If board members would make a list of their ideas and return them to Giesen prior to the next EDA meeting he would compile them for their review.

Logo Contest: Preliminary Review

The board reviewed all of the logo contest entries that they had ranked since the last meeting. Entries that did not receive a vote by board members were eliminated from the contest. Board members reviewed each entry and eliminated all but 5. Discussed at length, it was the board's consensus that these top 5 entries should be again ranked by members, before the next meeting, and then they would review and discuss additional modification, if any, and potentially make a final selection and forward it to the City Council for approval.

Prospects/Community Update

No additional prospects were discussed.

Adjournment

Swenson and Donney left the meeting at 8:37 AM. Having lost a quorum, Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 8:37 AM. The next regular meeting will be held on January 5, 2017 at 7:30 AM, at the Community Center.