

Harmony EDA Minutes

April 7, 2016
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

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

Also Present: Jill Fishbauger, Beck Hoff, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:31 AM by Chris Skaalen.

Minutes

Motion by Donney second by Swenson, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2016 and March 14, 2016 meetings as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports & Claims

Illg gave an update on the revolving loan fund and past due loans were discussed. Giesen presented claims for payment from the Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce of \$12,250 for 1st half 2016 funding and an invoice from Community and Economic Development Associates of \$6,998.55 for 2nd quarter economic development staffing services. Motion by Skaalen, second by Batstone to approve the financial report and payment claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Sale of Real Estate in Industrial Park

Skaalen opened a public hearing to accept public comments on the sale of real estate at 7:34 AM.

Giesen presented an offer from Mr. Trevor Case to purchase real estate in the industrial park, 970 2nd Ave NE (PIN# 150574000). The offer was for the board's asking price, plus assessments. Because the original lot was subdivided for the well, the offered sale price was \$6,000 which was half of the full lot's price. Giesen added that Mr. Case intended to build a shop for his business and that no other financial assistance was requested from the EDA. It was noted that as standard procedure, a development agreement would also be entered into with Mr. Case to ensure a building was constructed.

Skaalen asked for additional public comments three times and hearing none, closed the public hearing at 7:37 AM.

Consider Sale of Real Estate in Industrial Park

The board considered and discussed Mr. Case's offer. Motion by Swenson, second by Batstone to accept the offer as presented and sell 970 2nd Ave NE (PIN# 150574000) to Mr. Trevor Case for \$6,000 plus assessments, and on the conditions set in the development agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce

Becky Hoff gave the chamber report. She said that the chamber is finalizing its advertising plan for the year and will not be doing TV ads because of the elections this fall. Also, the visitor's center would be opening for summer hours soon. Volunteers are also busy planning for the 4th of July festivities and the visitor's guide was mailed out to

postal customers in Harmony, Mabel, and Canton recently in an effort to raise awareness of local businesses. The board thanked Hoff for her work.

Joint Board Meeting

Swenson, Batstone, and Kingsley gave an update on the recent joint board meeting with the City Council and Fillmore Central School District. They reported that it was a good meeting and several current and future projects were discussed. In particular, they mentioned that the school booster club was considering a new baseball field location in Harmony and that the board and City might have an opportunity to assist. The board discussed at length. Consensus of the board was that the EDA is happy to help and hoped that the school district could outline the project's specific needs so that next steps can be taken.

City Logo Contest

Giesen gave a proposal to hold a contest to design a logo for the City of Harmony; something that could be used on official letters, business cards, websites, vehicles, etc... He suggested that the board sponsor the project and ask the City Council to approve. It was suggested that the timeline for submissions be through November 1, 2016 and to have a cash prize of \$500 to the winner. It was suggested that staff also reach out to the high school to see if they can inform the art department of the contest.

Skaalen left at 8:24 AM. Donney assumed the gavel as chair.

Trail Extension Project

Giesen updated the board on the status of the trail project. He said that he, board members Kingsley and Batstone, Illg, and volunteers Vicky Tribon, Greg Schieber, and Mark Bishop had made several visits to the state Capitol to talk with legislators and present the project in committee hearings. Giesen reported that the bill has been making progress and at this point it was just a matter of seeing how the political process moves the project.

Swenson left the meeting at 8:35 AM.

Prospects/Community Update

Giesen gave an update on prospects.

Hearing no objections, Donney adjourned the meeting at 8:59 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2016 at 7:30 AM, at the Community Center.