

Harmony EDA Minutes

May 5, 2016
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

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

Also Present: Jill Fishbauger, Courtney Bergey, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen

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

Minutes

Motion by Swenson second by Skaalen, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2016 and April 19, 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. There were no payment claims.

Chamber of Commerce

Giesen gave a brief chamber report on behalf of director Becky Hoff. He reported that the Visitor's Center would be opening on the summer season schedule of 7 days a week soon and that the chamber's primary project now is planning for the 4th of July festival.

Trail Extension Project

The board discussed the status of the trail extension project at length. It was reported that the Senate bonding bill did not include the Harmony project but that the bill failed in a floor vote and that the House had not yet developed its own bonding bill. Donney said that he had spoken to Senator Jeremy Miller and was told that the projects included in the Senate's bill were included for more political reasons as opposed to project quality or readiness. The board discussed possible next steps. Batstone suggested additional meetings with the chairs of the Senate and House bonding committees. Giesen said he would contact their offices and schedule meetings. Consensus of the board was to discuss next steps at the June meeting.

Swenson left the meeting at 8:53 AM.

Broadband Internet Discussion

Illg and Giesen presented a resolution from the Fillmore County EDA discussing a Fillmore County Broadband Alliance that was being formed. The County asked if the City of Harmony would join. The board discussed at length. Jill Fishbauger was also present for the discussion. Consensus of the board was that more information was needed from the County before taking action on the resolution. Giesen will work with the County EDA to get additional information and bring it back to the board for further consideration.

Prospects/Community Update

Giesen discussed updates. He mentioned that with the recent sales in the Industrial Park and prospective Tri County project, the Industrial Park will have only a few lots ready for

development. The board discussed possible projects to expand infrastructure and asked Giesen to bring back additional information for future discussion.

Adjournment

Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 9:44 AM. The next regular meeting will be held on June 2, 2016 at 7:30 AM, at the Community Center.