

Harmony EDA Minutes

January 5, 2017
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

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

Also Present: Jerome Illg and Chris Giesen

The annual & regular meeting was called to order at 7:32 AM by Chris Skaalen.

Election of Officers

Motion by Swenson, second by Kingsley to keep board officers the same as the prior year: Chris Skaalen, President; Steve Donney, Vice President; Deb Swenson, Treasurer. No other nominations were made. Motion carried unanimously.

2017 Committee Appointments

Skaalen appointed Swenson and Batstone to the loan committee for 2017. No other committee appointments were made or renewed.

Annual Review of Programs and Policies

The board reviewed the business subsidy policy, revolving loan fund guidelines, and new home construction rebate program. Consensus was that everything seemed in good order and no changes were recommended. Consensus was to request that the City Council continue the new home rebate program for 2017.

Minutes

Motion by Swenson second by Donney, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 and December 15, 2016 meetings as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports & Claims

Illg reported all loans were current. There was one payment claim, from Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) in the amount of \$7,138.50 for 1st quarter 2017 economic development staffing services. Motion by Batstone, second by Swenson to approve the payment as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce

There was no director's report this month. Batstone mentioned that the chamber annual meeting will be January 18 and that the EDA is invited. Consensus of the board was that since Giesen will be giving an EDA update at the annual meeting, he should ask the chamber members for their thoughts on housing in Harmony and to promote the bike trail extension project.

Logo Contest

The board reviewed the five finalist designs and discussed variations of each, at length. No consensus was reached on the design. Discussion occurred on whether or not to utilize a professional consulting service to produce a logo. Consensus was to seek proposals for designing the logo from professional designers with Harmony ties and discuss at the February meeting.

2017 Goals and Objectives

The board discussed 2017 goals at length. In addition to the usual work plan of selling industrial lots, developing the downtown lot, providing assistance to businesses, and operating the loan fund and other established programs, consensus of the board was to focus additional attention on housing – building new homes, renovating existing homes, developing new lots, redeveloping infill lots, and dealing with dilapidated houses, and marketing the community for a data center.

2017 Joint Board Meeting

The board discussed holding another joint city, school, and EDA meeting. Consensus was to see if the school board could meet on February 28th, 2017 and to discuss possible agenda topics at the February EDA meeting.

Swenson left the meeting at 8:47 AM.

Prospects/Community Update

No additional prospects were discussed.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 9:20 AM. The next regular meeting will be held on February 2, 2017 at 7:30 AM, at the Community Center.