

Harmony EDA Minutes

April 13, 2017
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

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

Also Present: Brit Schievel, Whitney Bestor - Tulip Tree Studios, and Chris Giesen

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

Minutes

Motion by Swenson, second by Batstone to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports & Claims

Giesen reported all loans were current and the board reviewed the loan portfolio. There was a claim for payment from the Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$12,250 for the first half 2017 EDA contribution to the Chamber. Motion by Donney second by Kingsley to approve the financial report and claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Industrial Park Mowing

Brit Schievel was present to discuss his arrangement to mow the grass in the industrial park. He had wondered if he could plant a crop or slightly till some areas to make the ground easier to mow, but told the board that he had changed his mind and would simply continue to mow as he had done in years past. The board thanked him for his work and for letting them know his intentions.

Harmony Spirits Project Update

Giesen reported that the distillery project was taking longer than the owners anticipated. Originally the agreement with the city's property sale and financial package was set to expire on May 1, 2017. Giesen said that the owners requested an extension because the project's primary financing was taking longer than they anticipated. Motion by Skaalen second by Donney to extend the EDA's property sale and assistance package deadline to June 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

City Logo

Whitney Bestor of Tulip Tree Studios was present their ideas for a new city logo. Eight black and white concepts were reviewed. Each concept was fundamentally different and portrayed a different view of Harmony. Bestor said that the logo should give someone from outside the community a good understanding of what the community is. The board discussed at length what they liked and didn't like about each concept. Bestor said that the Board should take some time to look at the concepts in different settings and ask others their thoughts too. Consensus was that Board members would consider the options, email their top 3 choices with a narrative as to why, back to Giesen by 4/21.

Bike Trail Project

Giesen mentioned that the Legacy funding bill for the Harmony trail did not appear to make it into the final bill in either the House or Senate, effectively killing a chance for Legacy funding this year. The board was very disappointed to hear this and discussed several options for moving forward. Giesen said that he would be meeting later in the day with volunteers to discuss next steps. In the interim, the board suggested having the Chamber members write letters. It was noted that the opportunity to receive bonding funds was still alive.

Prospects/Community Update

Giesen discussed a prospective business interested in the industrial park.

Swenson left the meeting at 8:52 AM.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM. The next regular meeting will be held on May 4, 2017 at 7:30 AM, at the Community Center.