

Harmony EDA Minutes

August 3, 2017
7:30 AM

Council Room
Community Center

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

Also Present: Becky Hoff, Jerome Illg, and Chris Giesen

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

Minutes

Motion by Swenson, second by Donney to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports & Claims

Giesen reported all loans were current and the board reviewed the loan portfolio. There were no payment claims. Motion by Donney, second by Batstone to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Kingsley entered the meeting at 7:35 AM.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Becky Hoff presented a request for an increase in funding for the Chamber in 2018. The Chamber proposes to increase Hoff's hours from 25 per week to 30 per week to work on additional projects and marketing efforts. Hoff said the increase would total \$2,000 for the year, bringing their total 2018 request to \$26,500. The board discussed at length but consensus was that the additional hours would be a benefit to the community and that the budget increase would be considered during the budget discussion later in the meeting.

Hoff gave the Chamber activity report stating that recently a lot of time has been spent helping the Trail Towns organization and collaborating with them on various events. She noted that they saw an increase in visitor traffic this year of 10% over last year during the same period.

Preliminary 2018 Budget

Illg presented the preliminary 2018 budget and discussed the proposed changes. While preliminary estimates at this point, Illg pointed out that the only adjustments were expected increases to costs for services, but that the items and other line item amounts were the same as last year. The total 2017 budget was \$119,118 and the proposed total 2018 budget is \$120,093. The board discussed. Consensus was to increase the chamber contribution by \$2,000 as discussed earlier in the meeting. Motion by Skaalen, second by Swenson to approve the 2018 preliminary budget as proposed with a \$2,000 increase to the Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce contribution, for a total EDA budget of \$122,093. Motion carried unanimously.

City Logo

The board reviewed and discussed several color options for the logo. Consensus was to ask Tulip Tree to mock up both a maroon and teal logo on light grey, tan, white, and parchment colored backgrounds for further consideration.

Experience Harmony II

The board discussed setting dates for the Experience Harmony II public meetings. Consensus was that staff should find meeting dates during the week, in the evening, that didn't conflict with other community events, or at least to the extent possible. Giesen said that he would put together a schedule and circulate it to the board and that once a schedule is finalized he would also put out a press release announcing the meetings.

Prospects/Community Update

Giesen noted that Vicky Tribon is working on renewing the status of the bike trail extension project with the MN Parks and Trails Commission, which is a step in making sure that the legislature recognizes our trail project as a state priority.

Giesen said that he will be distributing by email an updated regional profile which was provided by the state. The board said they appreciated receiving that type of information and asked that he continue to forward as studies come in.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Skaalen adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2017 at 7:30 AM, at the Community Center.