

# Harmony EDA Minutes

February 13, 2018  
6:30 PM

Community Center  
Council Room

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

Also present: Lynn Mensink, Craig Britton, Richard Keith, Jerome Illg, Jim Love, Steve Sagen, Kyle Morem, Roxanne Johnson, Chris Johnson, Dan Dornink, Joe Hahn, Greg Schieber, Hannah Wingert, Melissa Vander Plas, and Chris Giesen

The special joint meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Steve Donney.

## **Special Joint Meeting Discussion**

The Harmony Economic Development Authority met in joint session with the Harmony City Council and Fillmore County School board for the purposes of discussing current project updates, short and long term goals of each board, and opportunities for collaboration on common goals.

Representatives of each board participated in an open discussion workshop. No official action was taken by any board.

Consensus among all groups was that over the next year they would continue to seek opportunities to work together on issues. Specific issues that were discussed included:

- The EDA's efforts to extend the bike trail to the Iowa boarder and Niagara Cave, the Experience Harmony II placemaking project, an update on the Harmony Spirits project that it was nearing fruition, that the EDA continues to work towards attracting a dentist, that the industrial park continues to receive inquiries from development projects, and that the EDA finalized its selection of a new city logo.
- The Fillmore Central school board mentioned that the recent land swap with the city and related construction of their new garage and the city's new helipad was successful. They also reported that they had recently met with city officials to discuss a potential project to improve the high school football field which would require the relocation of the junior high baseball field. Britton presented two concept plans showing various alignments of the new football field improvements which included moving the field, new stands, and a new scoreboard. It was mentioned that the most affordable and probably best option was able to reuse the existing lighting and some of the existing stands but would still require the baseball field to be moved elsewhere. It was proposed that the baseball field be moved behind the community center on the current football field towards the north end of the property. This project would include a need for additional parking at the community center near the Library. Consensus was that the additional parking would also benefit the Library and community center. It was also discussed that some of the trees may need to be removed, but it wasn't clear how many or what condition any of the trees were in.
- The city council reported that it will be completing approximately \$1 million in road improvement projects this spring in addition to the

improvement/development of 3<sup>rd</sup> AVE SE in conjunction with the new residential subdivision. It was also mentioned that the city looped the water mains between Hwy 139 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE along Garden Road SE which will greatly improve circulation, pressure, and redundancy for that entire section of town including at the fire hall and waste water plant. The city also reported that the new municipal well had been finished, the water tower had been repainted, and that Highway 52 will be repaved from the Industrial Park to Preston sometime in the summer of 2018.

- The Harmony Area Community Foundation reported that they raised about \$15,000 at the annual “Swing into Spring” event, raised about \$20,000 from “Give to the Max” day donors, and that last year they gave grants to the city for a new helipad, the trail project, a library patio project, the Monster Bash, Golden Happenings, the Harmony Historical Society for a new computer system and interpretive signage around the downtown area, and several school projects. This year they are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and given back \$125,000 to the community in that time.

Consensus of all three boards was that they found value in this event and should continue the practice of meeting annually in a similar fashion.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Donney adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.