

## Harmony EDA Minutes

November 3, 2022  
7:30 AM

Community Center  
Council Room

Present: Kerry Kingsley, Steve Donney, Steve Sagen, and Greg Schieber

Also Present: Allan Dahl, Sue Olinger, Amy Bishop, Aaron Bishop, Erica Thilges, Allison Whalen, Devin Swanberg, and Chris Giesen

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by Kerry Kingsley.

### **Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes of the October 4, 2022 and October 6, 2022 meetings. Motion by Donney, second by Schieber to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Financial Reports & Claims**

The board reviewed the loan portfolio. All loans were current. Motion by Donney, second by Kingsley to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2023 Chamber Ad & Membership**

The board reviewed the 2023 membership renewal for the Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce and visitor guide ad for next year. Membership dues are \$100 and a full sized ad is \$390. Donney suggested that the ad reflect the proposed updated home rebate program slated to start in 2023, the board concurred. Motion by Schieber, second by Sagen to approve the membership renewal and update visitor guide ad. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Bike Trail Project**

Giesen gave a report on the status of the new bike trail project. There were no new updates since the last meeting. Bids are supposed to be let before Thanksgiving and awarded in mid December. Schieber discussed the need to possibly hold a special meeting if bids are delayed or not acceptable, in order to consider assuming management of the project as a city as previously discussed with the DNR. It was agreed that staff should keep an eye on the progression of the project and keep the board informed of any status changes.

### **Downtown Revitalization Program**

Giesen reported that three proposals for the annual \$40,000 downtown revitalization grant were received. He will work with the applicants over the course of the next month to best understand the proposals and then present each project at the December meeting for board consideration.

### **Chamber of Commerce Report**

Allison Whalen was present to give the chamber report. They are working on the annual membership drive, had a good showing for Haunted Harmony despite the conflicting schedule with the high school football game, and are discussing a similar potential conflict for Santa Day. Chamber members continue to work on the downtown directional signage project and have a series of fundraising events planned to help fund the project. Several ideas are being discussed to improve Harmony's participation with Small Business Saturday including new events that will bring visitors to town. She noted that last evening she attended a social media training event hosted by CEDA and is working to schedule a similar training event in Harmony sometime in spring 2023. Lastly, the chamber is working organizational items to improve efficiency and refreshing the chamber's brand. Kingsley thanked Whalen for her work.

### **Prospects/Community Update**

Giesen gave an update on prospects. He noted that there was a manufacturing type prospect interested in the industrial park. He will continue working with them.

Giesen gave an update on the small cities block grant application the city submitted earlier this year. He reported that the state and federal agencies responsible for the program are still delayed and an award decision has not been made. Giesen reminded the board that this grant would fund about 20-40 residential and commercial rehab type projects.

There was no other business.

Hearing no objections, Kingsley adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 AM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2022 at 7:30 AM at the Community Center.