

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Monday, September 16, 2013 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Sally Swanson, Tom Triplett, Dan Lee, Greg Isaacson, and Bruce Swenson. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

Motion by lee, seconded by Triplett to approve the August 19, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Isaacson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

No one was present for the public forum.

Swanson provided examples of other EDA's mission statements. Swanson mentioned assisting existing businesses was the top vote getter in recent poll on City's website. Also wants to attract new businesses. Triplett mentioned needing to include a housing component. Board discussed need for both senior housing and workforce house. Handt read Housing Goal from Comprehensive Plan: The City of Scandia will expand life-cycle housing opportunities for residents at all points of life. Handt will draft a mission statement for Board review at the next meeting that includes all of these components. Triplett emphasized the importance of interrelating housing and jobs. Lee asked about including tourism. Swanson mentioned the "chairs" along Hwy 8 in Chisago County.

The board discussed goals/projects. Handt suggested a Business Retention and Expansion Survey (BRE). Triplett questioned how to reach home base businesses. Handt will check with UM Extension since they have helped neighboring communities complete BREs. The board discussed zoning challenges and the lack of wastewater infrastructure as things that will need to be looked at more closely and may require the assistance of a consultant. Swenson pointed out some businesses don't require a lot of water to operate. The board discussed focusing the growth in the City Center area and looking for mixed use expansion opportunities along Hwy 97. The board reviewed the current zoning map, particularly around the city center area. Triplett mentioned the housing needs study will be completed by the Washington County HRA about Oct 15 and recommended inviting the executive director to a future meeting.

Swanson suggested cleaning up Lilleskogen as an entrance point to the community and relocating a Welcome to Scandia sign to the northwest corner of the park near Hwy 97 and Oakhill because of the visibility for lots of traffic. Triplett suggested a beautification program that stretched from Oakhill to Ozark Ave. Handt also suggested developing a list of the type of businesses to try and recruit to Scandia. Discussion included tourism related businesses or an office park.

Triplett provided a written report on County programs.

Handt provided a written executive director's report.

The board set meeting dates for the rest of the year as follows: Oct 8, Oct 29, Nov. 12 and Nov 26 at 6:30pm and Dec. 10 at 7pm. The County's economic development consultant, members of other EDAs and a draft mission statement will be on the Oct 8 agenda. Oct. 29 will include representatives from other EDAs and Barbara Dacy will be invited to the Nov. 12 meeting.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Isaacson to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Handt, Secretary