

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Sally Swanson, Tom Triplett, Dan Lee, Greg Isaacson, and Bruce Swenson. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Lee to approve the September 16, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

Swanson suggested starting with Old Business first as the speaker would be arriving later. Motion by Swanson, seconded by Lee to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

No one was present for the public forum.

The board reviewed the draft mission statement. Triplett questioned the redundancy at the end regarding life cycle housing. Motion by Triplett, seconded by Swenson to approve the draft mission statement after deleting “at all points of life”. Motion carried.

Swanson introduced Jill Behnke, Center City Mayor and EDA Chair, who was present to share her city’s experience regarding EDA activities. Behnke discussed working with Chisago County on their planned new jail and annexing land for this and other businesses into the City; developing criteria for the businesses to recruit; the use of TIF, tax abatement and grants; the Swedish Immigrant trail and other tourism projects; the Hwy 8 reconstruction; EDA levy; working with MNDOT on beautification efforts; and the business community on signage. Behnke’s information was very helpful and she was thanked for her time by the board.

The board reviewed the list of goals and projects discussed at the previous two meeting. Two additional goals/projects to add to the list are completing a Market Study and the Gateway Trail Expansion. After the board hears from more speakers and gathers more information, the list may be prioritized.

Swanson asked the board to review the draft Rural Event Facility Ordinance the Planning Commission had been working on. Handt explained a resident approached the City last year asking for permission to hold events such as weddings and fundraisers in his historic barn. Since the use is not currently permitted in the City Development Code, the Planning Commission has been working on amending the code. The board reviewed the draft and asked if gathering the required information would be cost prohibitive and if an Interim Use Permit granted for one year would provide too much uncertainty for a potential business investment. Triplett expressed concern about reviewing ordinances the Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing. Swanson and Lee said the EDA should look at ordinances that pertain to business or housing development and provide feedback to the Planning Commission. Triplett preferred a joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Handt mentioned the public hearing on the proposed ordinance November 5th and said the EDA could attend that meeting. Handt further encouraged

members to get feedback from potential property owners who would be interested in a Rural Event Facility. Swanson suggested the EDA could discuss again at their Oct. 29th meeting.

Handt provided information about University of Minnesota Extension programs related to community economic development. Board members were encouraged to review the information and it may be discussed in the future if there is interest.

The written Executive Director's report was presented. Handt also mentioned the Manufacturing Week event at Forest Lake High School Oct. 22.

Dave Unmacht, Springsted, will be at the Oct. 29th meeting. Springsted was hired by Washington County to provide a report on economic development. Board members expressed a desire to keep the meeting length to one hour so no other items were suggested for the agenda.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Lee to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Handt, Secretary