

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Sally Swanson, Tom Triplett, Dan Lee, Greg Isaacson. Absent: Bruce Swenson. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Lee to approve the October 8, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron was recognized during the public forum.

Tony Schertler from Springsted and Jane Harper from Washington County introduced themselves. Commissioner Miron spoke about the County's focus on economic development and wanting to do more than offer low taxes, good roads, etc. The County is looking to partner with cities in their economic development efforts.

Schertler provided a handout about Community Engagement-Stakeholder Input and gave a brief overview of the work done thus far and coordination in data collection and analysis with Extension. Schertler then asked the strategy questions. Commissioners discussed issues such as a lack of infrastructure, the vertical distinction between communities in the county, affordable and senior housing, the advantage to starting with a clean slate, public resistance to growth, density issues, relationship between housing and job growth, determining who to attract to the City, the gateway Trail and tourism, internet connection and speed issues. The Board also commented on the Met Council's 2040 forecast and how some things like the willingness of volunteers to provide transportation doesn't show up as a public need because it's being addressed privately. The board was encouraged to look at zoning, get a game plan in place and things will follow. Commissioner Miron also pointed out the positive things Scandia has to offer and that they should be focused on rather than what is missing.

The Board reviewed the draft Rural Events Facility ordinance. This was the same draft looked at the previous month. It was noted again that areas for possible concern could be the one year permit time frame and any expensive barriers to entry. The Board also discussed the provision requiring events to end at 10pm and thought that may be too early but that the noise ordinance should be followed or only outdoor amplified music would need to stop at 10pm. President Swanson will attend the Planning Commission public hearing on November 5th.

Executive Director's Report: Handt reported on her and Lee's attendance at the manufacturing Day event at Forest Lake High School, contact from a new business startup looking for a building or site for a 10-30k sq. ft building for a manufacturing system, and the new economic development section on the website.

Barb Dacy, Ex. Dir., Washington County HRA, will be at the Nov. 12th meeting. Parcel information along Hwy 97 and in the Village Neighborhood District will be provided by Handt. Triplett also requested information on the latest school census. The Board decided to cancel the November 26th meeting.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Lee to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Handt, Secretary