

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Monday, December 9, 2013 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Sally Swanson, Tom Triplett, Dan Lee, Greg Isaacson, Bruce Swenson. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Swenson to approve the November 12, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Swanson introduced the guest, Stev Stegner. Stegner was the former Mayor and EDA President in Forest Lake. He owns Rapid Press printing and his family owns Scandia Plaza. Stegner commented that businesses use less services, pay more taxes, employ people who in turn spend more in the community, etc. Small business owners also have the flexibility to be involved and volunteer in the community which isn't always possible for those who commute outside of the community.

Stegner highly recommended the Business Retention and Expansion Survey (BRE) program through the U of M Extension. He shared his experience with the program in Forest Lake. Businesses helped pay for the BRE, volunteers from the community were trained and completed the surveys of roughly 70 businesses, and it led to things such as changes in the sign ordinance and the City's ability to address other business concerns. The process took approximately 5 months of meeting with U of M folks and preparing for the survey and another 6 months to complete the surveys.

Stegner also talked about business property listings on the website, the revolving loan program, a trade market profile, and other business support information. Stegner suggested the EDA identify a few key areas for development and plan for attracting quality businesses.

The EDA discussed possible development along TH 97 at the intersection near Manning Trail and near the Fire Hall.

President Swanson presented information on a MNDOT program to help pay for landscaping along state highways and suggested it be used at Lilleskogen. Swanson also mentioned the potential for a Veterans Memorial to be added at Lilleskogen and expressed a desire to see a welcome sign at the northwest corner of the park. The Lilleskogen Plan currently includes a park entrance sign at that location. Lee mentioned the design has not been done yet and the PRC could incorporate both a Welcome to Scandia and Lilleskogen Park message into the design. Handt suggested updating the Strategic Action Plan for Lilleskogen to identify areas where the EDA would like to be involved. Motion by Triplett, seconded by Isaacson to recommend to the PRC that they apply for the MN program grant and building into their planning a welcome and park sign at the northwest corner of the park. Motion carried. It was noted the Veterans

Memorial will be discussed by the City Council next week and the volunteer group will then move on to preparing a call for design.

Handt provided an update on the County Economic Development Work Group. A County Board workshop will be on Thursday to discuss functions and organizational structure. Triplett mentioned the recent article in the Star Tribune about the low interest loan program for failing sewers. The Board looked at a sampling of maps that were focused on tourism. Handt also mentioned the Preserve America program. Swenson suggested doing something to inform people about the history of some of the businesses/buildings in Scandia. Perhaps placing plaque at each site and incorporating a walking tour component with the maps.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6:30pm. The U of M Extension BRE staff will be invited to the meeting. If that date doesn't work a special meeting will be considered. Swanson/Handt will also begin working on a project priority list to bring back to the Board.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Handt, Secretary