

CITY OF COLUMBUS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
January 8, 2014

The January 8, 2014 Economic Development Authority meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 6:16 p.m. by Vice President Denny Peterson at the City Hall. Present were EDA Commissioners Tracie Wilson, Denny Peterson, Jessie Messina, Bill Krebs; and Jeff Duraine, Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko; Attorney Julie Perrus, and Assistant Secretary Emmy Robinson.

Also in attendance: Frank E. Wagamon, Steve Wagamon, Jody Krebs, Pat Preiner, Mary Preiner.

Absent: President Dave Povolny

APPROVAL – MINUTES November 13, 2013

Motion by Krebs to approve the Minutes of the **November 13, 2013** EDA meeting as written. Second by Duraine. Motion carried.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Duraine to approve the Agenda presented. Second by Krebs Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

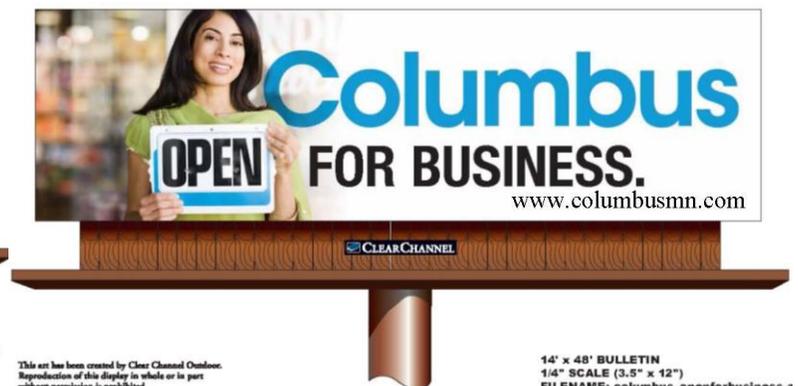
Critique & Feedback — Billboard Proposals (Enclosure)

A print out of sample artwork for the billboards was included in the agenda packet. The EDA selected “Welcome to Columbus, Live Work, Play” for the residential billboard vinyl and “Open for business” for the business vinyl. There was a request to add the website to the business billboard vinyl artwork and remove the picture of the person on the business billboard vinyl. It was noted that there may not be enough in the budget for two billboard vinyl’s this year. (See discussion below regarding budget for billboards)



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14' x 48' BULLETIN
1/4" SCALE (3.5" x 12")
FILENAME: columbus_family.ai



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1/4" SCALE (3.5" x 12")
FILENAME: columbus_openforbusiness.a

Budget Sheet & Update & Business Retention & Expansion Program Update

The City Administrator distributed the budget worksheet for 2014 which included the actual and approved budget numbers. There is no excess in the budget. At the last meeting there was consensus to have 2 vinyls, one residential and one commercial. The billboard vinyl costs were included in the marketing fund which was reduced at the Truth and Taxation Meeting. A

new vinyl will cost about \$2200. There is money budgeted for commissioner pay that has not been requested by Commissioner Wilson, however there is still an opening on the EDA so this amount needs to stay in the budget.

A question was asked about the ColumBiz event and if the City Council has the authority to override the EDA's budget. At the Truth and Taxation meeting the council cut the budget for the ColumBiz Event. The EDA has its own levying authority for HRA funds, but the question is whether operating funds can be changed by the council. The Attorney responded that the Council does have final authority for the EDA's budget except the HRA funds.

Commissioner Wilson asked how the BR&E program would be finalized if ColumBiz was not held and said that the EDA as a group should come up with a way to disseminate the information that was gathered. The City Administrator concurred that there is an obligation to get the information back to the companies who participated. The draft report has been received.

Motion by Messina to request the City Council reconsider funding ColumBiz. Second by Krebs. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Krebs suggested that the BR&E be held at an EDA meeting. There was discussion regarding having some type of gathering to disseminate the BR&E information to save money.

OPEN BUSINESS

Business Retention & Expansion Program Update

The discussion for this topic was included with the previous topic under New Business.

Review - 2014 Goals (Page 1)

A 2014 Goals list was included in the agenda packet. No changes were made to the Goals list at this time. There was a motion earlier to bring the request to fund ColumBiz to the City Council at their meeting tonight.

PROPOSED

2014 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - GOALS

1. Legislative Roundtable (?? Columbus Initiatives) The purpose to have this meeting is to have legislators to carry something to the legislative session for the City. If there are no issues, then the legislators will be asked to come in for an update. Council Member Duraine suggested discussing the TH97 bridge project. The City Administrator explained that this is not programmed with MNDot. The Attorney explained that this is a bonding year. The legislature starts February 25th. The consensus was to hold a meeting before the legislative session. Information will be needed from the Engineer to help explain the need.
2. Marketing
3. ~~ColumBiz Event (April 3, 2014 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. RAHP)~~
?? Replace with Different Format
4. Advertise/Branding "Columbus"
 - New Billboard Vinyl
5. Attracting New Development & Businesses – Retaining Current Businesses
 - Business Retention & Expansion Program
 - Additional Fiber Access to Commercial & Residential Areas
 - Explore PUD Zoning Flexibility in Residential Areas

- Explore different type of housing opportunities in the Commercial Areas

Mayor Dave Povolny said he would like to continue working on the perception people have that Columbus is difficult to work with. It was decided that this is addressed in the current goals.

COMMITTEE OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Messina wanted to comment on Mayor Dave Povolny's earlier concern and said the current Building Official is very accommodating and works with the contractors to facilitate their schedules.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The City Administrator asked if the EDA wished to meet with the legislators before the session this year. The purposed of having a meeting before session is to ask the legislators to bring the EDA's concerns/requests to the session. As an alternative, a meeting can be held during the session to get a legislative update. The session starts February 25th.

Commissioner Duraine asked about the TH97 bridge and if this would be something that could be brought forward. The Attorney said this is a bonding year and the discussion with the legislators could be for design with MNDot, but added that bonding proposals take significant lobbying efforts. It will be 2 years before bonding is taken up at the legislature again. The consensus was to hold a meeting before the session starts to discuss the TH97 Bridge.

The City Administrator suggested the Engineer create a worksheet for the EDA to use at the meeting to discuss this issue. The City Administrator will schedule a legislative meeting for the February EDA meeting.

Treasurer's Report

100 EDA General Fund Loan	\$829,031.82
240 EDA Fund	\$XXXX
480 EDA Quad 35 Project Fund	\$3,096,224.00 (Land Value)
481 EDA Quad 35 Bond Fund	\$7.47
482 EDA Quad 35 RESERVE Fund	\$419,344.00

Set Next Meeting Date: Next regularly scheduled meeting March 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Messina.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Emilia S. Robinson
Assistant Secretary EDA