

CITY OF COLUMBUS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
September 11, 2013

The September 11, 2013 Economic Development Authority meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by President Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were EDA Commissioners Tracie Wilson, Denny Peterson, Jessie Messina, Bill Krebs; Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko; Attorney Julie Perrus, and Assistant Secretary Emmy Robinson.

Also in attendance: Council Member Duraine.

Absent: Pat Preiner, Jesse Preiner, and Mary Preiner.

APPROVAL – MINUTES August 14, 2013

Motion by Krebs to approve the Minutes of the **August 14, 2013** EDA meeting as written. Second by Peterson Motion carried.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

NEW BUSINESS

Review - 2014 Goals (Page 1)

A 2014 Goals list was included in the agenda packet and listed below.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2014 GOALS**

1. Legislative Roundtable
2. Marketing
3. ColumBiz Event (April ?? 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. – RAHP)
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

Discussion:

4. Billboard Vinyl

The EDA commissioners agreed the vinyl should be replaced. The City Administrator said Tom McCarver; the previous representative the city worked with has left the company. A new person is in place but he wasn’t sure if the same opportunity the city has had before could be continued. The consensus was to go ahead with a new vinyl.

5. Attracting New Development & Businesses – Retaining Current Businesses

Quad 35 Property

The consensus is the Quad 35 property needs a bigger sign with better information. The consensus was to go out with a new request for proposal for brokerage services.

It was suggested that zoning in the Freeway District may need to be re-visited at the joint meeting of the Planning Commission and City Council. Some questions posed include:

- Is there too many acres of commercial retail?
- Should there be more manufacturing, industrial zoning in that area?

A suggestion was made to create a collaborative effort with land owners in the Freeway District to develop a plan that will act as a catalyst for their land sales and help the Quad 35 area develop. The city has not been contacted by other land owners in the Freeway District Area. Brokers have indicated that no one wants to be the first one in an area.

Running Aces hosted legislative representatives at their facility recently; the objective was to show them what is going on in the north metro area.

The City Administrator reviewed the discussions the Planning Commission members had with 2 developers. One said they would not build in Columbus at this time, the other said he would look at building here. There was discussion regarding lot averaging on larger acreage lots that are currently in areas surrounded by small acreage properties now, (Iverson/Gehrig area) and in the easterly section of the Freeway District. There was discussion regarding property owned by Tim Lange and the difficulties he has with developing that land.

The following goals were added to the 2014 Goal list:

- Work with developers for flexibility in lot sizes.
- Explore Planned Urban Development zoning in the residential areas where a developer can submit a plan. This could be a solution for areas with high levels of wetlands.
- Better signage for the Freeway District.

OPEN BUSINESS

Update - Business Retention & Expansion Program

The BR&E team held their first meeting this morning, it was well attended. Forty (40) businesses are expected to be involved. The results are expected in February and will be presented at the ColumBiz event.

Update - Website Production

Filming is proceeding for the EDA video project. Commissioner Krebs went out with Maris from LATV and Commissioner Duraine went out last week and video was shot of the Parks and Fire Department. Commissioner Povolny is going out this Saturday.

Review - 2013 Goals (Page 2)

An updated 2013 Goals list was included in the agenda packet and listed below. No further discussion was held on this topic.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

2013 GOALS

6. Legislative Roundtable (February 25, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.) (**Completed**)
7. Marketing
 - Website Update EDA Page (**Ongoing**)
8. ColumBiz Event (March 7, 2013 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. – RAHP) (**Completed**)
9. Advertise/Branding “Columbus”
 - ~~Monument Signs at entrances to Columbus~~ (**Deleted**)
 - New Billboard Vinyl (?)
10. Attracting New Development & Businesses – Retaining Current Businesses
 - Anoka County Gardening Program (**1 Columbus Business Participating**)
 - Business Retention & Expansion Program (**Ongoing**)
 - Senior Housing Preliminary Numbers Study (**Completed**)
 - Additional Fiber Access to Commercial & Residential Areas (**Ongoing**)

COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION

No further open discussion was held.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

100 EDA General Fund Loan	\$617,167.17
240 EDA Fund	\$22,518.26
480 EDA Quad 35 Project Fund	\$3,096,224.00 (Land Value)
481 EDA Quad 35 Bond Fund	\$36.01
482 EDA Quad 35 RESERVE Fund	\$419,344.00

Next Meeting Date: November 13, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Peterson

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Emilia S. Robinson
Assistant Secretary EDA