

**CITY OF COLUMBUS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING  
May 11, 2016**

The May 11, 2016 Economic Development Authority meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by President Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were EDA Commissioners, Tracie Wilson, Denny Peterson, Mark Daly, Jeff Duraine, and Bill Krebs, Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko, Attorney William Griffith Jr.(6:19), and Recording Secretary Lorie Lemieux.

Also in attendance: Pat Preiner, Mary Preiner, and Dennis Postler (TKDA).

**APPROVAL – MINUTES March 16, 2016 EDA Minutes**

*Motion* by Daly to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2016 EDA meeting as written. Second by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carried.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion* by Duraine to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Krebs. Votes as follows: Wilson – aye; Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Povolny suggested to have the corner of the NE Quad cleared out more.

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**Discussion – Hotel Market Study**

Executive Director Mursko stated she has spoken to Michael Hoole and received the Market Study today in a preliminary format in which the staff will review for content for the final version. Running Aces requested the release of numbers from the report which showed the study came back very favorable for the need of 75 rooms. An average daily rate and occupancy rate were also provided to Running Aces. A final copy of the study will be delivered to the members at the next meeting. Duraine asked for a clarification on the room count and questioned what AmericInn was submitting. The feasibility study warranted 75 rooms while AmericInn submitted a plan with 50-60 hotel rooms. Krebs stated that having a hotel on the grounds of Running Aces is very beneficial as there already is food and entertainment provided without having to leave. Wilson added that a 3,000 square foot banquet facility with meeting rooms, a pool and fitness center is available, very similar to the Grand Stay in Chisago City.

Duraine inquired the status and purpose of the travel trailers that are being brought in on the grounds of Running Aces. Wilson shared that these travel trailers are housing for the horseman and are ready for the season.

**Update – TH97/I35 Bridge project**

Mursko reminded the Board that the TH97 Bridge project open house is tomorrow night, May 12, at the Eagle Brook Church in Lino Lakes from 5-7:00 pm. Mursko will be attending and thought Forest Lake would have some representation as well as Anoka County.

Attorney Griffith gave an update on the legislative part of the TH97/I 35 bridge project. The session will end in 2 weeks. There were attempts to amend this project into the senate bonding bill with 20 million dollar amendments offered by the Republicans, but it did not pass. Griffith feels we are in good position in the House with leadership and also with the Senate as Tom Bakk is supportive and a ranking member of the Senate as the Senate majority leader. At this point there are conference committees on the bonding bill and transportation bill in where as they draft a conference bill and present it to the membership to be voted up or down by. Vesel is in continual contact with the authors of the bill and leadership to make sure we are still on the top of the list of priorities.

**Review – ColumbBiz event April 7, 2016**

Mursko reviewed the statistics provided in the agenda packet in regards to the history of attendees to the ColumbBiz event. Wilson commented that 23 of the 54 commercial businesses were represented which is approximately 45%. The feedback received from tables were primarily bridge impact and signage. Duraine commented that signage on the east side of the freeway was also discussed with his table. Krebs inquired if a business district sign giving direction on Hornsby would be possible. Griffith stated a “directional way finding” sign is possible but cannot offer advertising when it is placed on public property. Duraine stated that he would like to see a “business district” sign be placed on the Hornsby street. The direction is to have the Engineer and Public Works Superintendent look at MNDOT standards and proceed with a proposal to bring forward to the Council. Wilson added that once a proposal is provided to consider passing on the ideas to the businesses in the subject area and confirm that they are interested in this idea and they are willing to pay their portion of any costs incurred.

**COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION** – Nothing presented for open discussion

**CLOSED MEETING DISCUSSION-**

The Regular Economic Development Meeting was briefly recessed at 6:42 p.m. for the EDA Closed Meeting and reconvened at 7:00 p.m. Separate minutes prepared.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Treasurer’s Report

100 EDA General Fund Loan

\$(1,007,415.68)

240 EDA Fund

\$ available next meeting

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** July 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Peterson. Votes as follows: Wilson- aye; Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lorie Lemieux, Recording Secretary