

CITY OF COLUMBUS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
December 10, 2014

The December 10, 2014 Economic Development Authority meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were EDA Commissioners Tracie Wilson, Denny Peterson, Jessie Messina, Bill Krebs; and Jeff Duraine, Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko; Attorney Bill Griffith, Jr., and Assistant Secretary Lorie Lemieux.

Also in attendance: Jesse Preiner, Mark Daly, Mary Preiner, and Pat Preiner

Absent: None

APPROVAL – MINUTES September 10, 2014 EDA minutes

Motion by Peterson to approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2014 EDA meeting as written. Second by Wilson. Motion carried.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – TH 97 – I-35 Bridge Task Force Proposal

Mursko stated that Council member Krebs has put together a Task Force to move forward on the Trunk Highway 97 and I-35 Bridge project. This would be important for economic development that the city gets a transportation plan in place and thus making developers aware that the City has a plan. Wilson indicated that having the bridge closed for a year would create a detrimental impact to their business. It was noted that the next possible exits are Hugo/Lino Lakes which is nine miles south or Forest Lake which is 3 miles north, both creating a missed opportunity to reach businesses that come off of TH97. The EDA discussed two options: keep bridge open during construction resulting in a possible 2 year project versus one year project with shutting down bridge. Povolny stated the emphasis is if we get a bridge but it would take Running Aces, Gander Mountain and Ziegler out of business, then it would not be a good deal. The Legislature will look to see that Columbus, Forest Lake, Anoka and Washington County are on the same page and in agreement with resolutions stating their support. Mursko informed the committee that these projects are usually funded 80% by Federal/State grants and 20% locally funded.

Motion by Duraine to direct the drafting of a Resolution in Support of TH97 – I35 Bridge Project. Second by Messina. Votes as follows: Peterson-aye; Messina-aye; Povolny-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Motion carried

OPEN BUSINESS

Review - 2014 Goals (Page 1)

Goal setting for 2015 will be discussed at the February 11, 2015 meeting the goals will be revisited and create new goals. EDA Goals list was included in the agenda packet. The City Administrator reviewed the goal list at this time.

Legislative Roundtable (complete) 2015 plan would be to include Karin Housley, Tom Emmer, and Washington County representation to discuss the new bridge project.

Columbiz Event (complete) Commissioner Peterson expressed that this is an informative and valuable networking opportunity for the business owners. Povolny felt there needs to be a different format of delivery and more interactive; possibly multiple tables where the council members rotate through and meet business owners. Commissioner Wilson stated that this would be a great opportunity to share the bridge project concepts to the business owners and include landowners that are adjacent to this project. The suggestion was to hold this event in April to avoid the spring break session allowing a better attendance.

Billboard vinyl (complete) The new vinyl has been up; it will be rotated with the residential billboard.

Land Sign- Designs have been received from marketing now has to be put into a sign format to be printed. 96 Square feet is the acceptable/allowable square footage. Freeway signs will note land for sign and the signs placed on 97/23 (Lake Drive) would have a map of the lots available.

Update – Retail Marketing Study –Mursko spoke to Karen Skepper from Anoka County HRA and was informed that the water tower funds were approved along with the Retail Marketing Study; therefore the staff will submit the documentation for reimbursement.

Review – Contact Submittal (Page 2) An email suggestion was received to consider the idea of placing a Caribou Coffee establishment on Lake Drive by the Holiday gas station. Council members thought it was a good idea but at this time premature for the fact the bridge project is unknown.

COMMITTEE OPEN DISCUSSION

Wilson stated that AT&T and T-Mobile cellular services work within the facility of RAHP but they have found that there is no service for Verizon carriers. Mursko informed that her that there is an upcoming application the first of the year from Verizon to install a tower on Lake Drive. Mursko stated that when/if this goes through council they are able to erect this quickly and should help with other cellular services.

Messina noted that Wyoming put a “Welcome to Wyoming” sign on the freeway.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

100 EDA General Fund Loan	\$(943,299.29)
240 EDA Fund	\$574.77
480 EDA Quad 35 Project Fund	\$3,096,224.00 (Land Value)
481 EDA Quad 35 Bond Fund	\$00.00
482 EDA Quad 35 RESERVE Fund	\$419,344.00

Set Next Meeting Date: January 14, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Peterson to adjourn. Second by Messina.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lorie Lemieux
Recording Secretary