

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2016

The January 13, 2016 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, Mark Daly, Jeff Duraine, and Bill Krebs, Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko, Attorney William Griffith Jr., and Assistant Secretary Lorie Lemieux.

Also in attendance: Mary Preiner, Pat Preiner, Dennis Postler, Jody Krebs, Margaret Vesel, and Jesse Preiner.

**APPROVAL – MINUTES November 12, 2015 EDA minutes**

*Motion* by Krebs to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2015 EDA meeting as written. Second by Peterson. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – MINUTES November 23, 2015 EDA minutes**

*Motion* by Krebs to approve the Minutes of the November 23, 2015 EDA meeting as written. Second by Duraine. Motion carried.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Legislation Discussion:** Margaret Vesel

Ms. Vesel, a registered lobbyist, whom represented the City of Columbus in regards to the transportation bonding bill in 2015, gave an update and discussed the process and preview of the 2016 Legislative session. The 2016 session will start March 8<sup>th</sup>. The items that were left on the 2015 calendar for discussion during this session were transportation and taxes and a bonding bill along with supplemental spending. The Transportation committee will present their recommendations to the full capital investment committee subsequently the capital investment committee will put together their bill based on recommendation from the transportation committee. This deadline is April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Vesel's message to the President and Commissioners is that this is the time to approach the committee members who were not able to be present at the presentations, along with transportation chairs, and have conversation sooner than later regarding the importance of this bill. Ms. Vesel stated that Senator Benson and Representative Hackbarth have done an excellent job advocating the priority of this bridge project.

Griffith noted that there are two options going forward, which are being proactive or reactive during the legislative session. Either option Ms. Vesel would represent Columbus in legislative meetings and discussions. Krebs commented that he feels the city needs to direct Ms. Vesel to take the lead. Krebs continued stating the city is fully vested in this matter and they have property to sell along with businesses need to know what the future is, therefore, the city needs someone to be out there in front of the legislatures pushing our project through on a continual basis and not on an on call system. Griffith informed the members that the city can choose a per hour rate or a fixed fee. With the fixed fee contract, the city would have the benefit of a team approach with Vesel and Griffith being the lead and would know the cap of financial exposure along with immediate action taking

place. Povolny shared that he feels that it is not right to levy funding to persuade legislatures to understand the cities position. Daly feels that the city's decision is critical to the future of the surrounding business along with the city itself.

**Motion by Krebs to engage in a contract, with services not to exceed \$50,000.00, with Larkin Hoffman and Ms. Vesel to provide representation for the City of Columbus during the 2016 Legislative session related to pursuing funding for the I-35 bridge. Second by Peterson. Votes as follows: Wilson-aye, Peterson-aye; Daly-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Povolny-nay Motion carried.**

#### **Election of Officers:**

The EDA Bylaws state that the EDA Annual Meeting is held the second Wednesday of January. The Mayor serves as the President. The officers consist of a Vice President, Commissioners, Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer. The Vice President and the Treasurer shall be members of the board and are elected at the annual meeting. The City Administrator servers as the Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Director.

**Motion by Daly to nominate himself as Vice President. Second by Peterson. Votes as follows: Wilson-aye, Peterson-aye; Daly-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Povolny-aye Motion carried**

**Motion by Krebs to nominate himself as Treasurer. Second by Peterson. Votes as follows: Wilson-aye, Peterson-aye; Daly-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Povolny-aye Motion carried.**

**ColumBiz** – The consensus was to schedule ColumBiz on Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 8am-10 am at Running Aces Harness Park.

**Motion by Krebs to hold 2016 ColumBiz on April 7, 2016. Second by Peterson. Votes as follows: Wilson-aye, Peterson-aye; Daly-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Povolny-aye Motion carried.**

**Goal List** - A 2016 Goals list was included in the agenda packet. No changes were made to the Goals list at this time.

#### **PROPOSED 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – GOALS**

- Legislative Project: I-35/TH97/CR23 Bridge Project Funding
  - ColumBiz Event (April 7, 2016 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. – RAHP)
  - Advertise/Branding —"Columbus"
  - Marketing – NE Quad Concept Plan
  - Attracting New Development & Businesses – Retaining Current Businesses
  - Recruit EDA Member
- An open position is advertised on the website under Boards and Commissions.

#### **Annual Report**

The EDA Annual Report was included in the agenda packet. The Executive Director reviewed the report that was drafted by Bronwyn Pope, Public Information Coordinator, with the President and Commissioners. This report will be available on the website for public viewing.

**Motion by Peterson to approve as presented the EDA 2016 Annual Report. Second by Daly. Votes as follows: Wilson-aye, Peterson-aye; Daly-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Povolny-aye Motion carried**

## **OPEN BUSINESS**

### **NE Quadrant CR Layout Proposal**

EDA members reviewed the concept plan provided by Ms. Kathy Anderson from Architectural Consortium in regards to the NE Quadrant of the CR District along Interstate 35.

Comments and suggestions were made for revisions.

- Draw a road on the top of the plan and designate it with the Interstate symbol and 35
- Note City of Columbus Concept Plan - NE Quadrant in the upper right empty box

**Motion by Krebs to accept proposed NE Quadrant CR layout proposal providing changes. Second by Duraine. Votes as follows: Wilson-aye, Peterson-aye; Daly-aye; Duraine-aye; Krebs-aye. Povolny-aye Motion carried**

### **Job Creation Fund Program**

This program replaces the previous JobZ program and is operated by the State for job creation. Griffith explained the program informing that once a business creates 10 or more full time jobs and a \$500,000.00 capital investment, the business is then eligible to request benefits through a Capital Investment rebate on purchases and services used for real property improvements. The City's responsibility would be to pre-qualify the applicant and support the application. This would be a resource that will be placed on the EDA website.

## **COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION**

No further discussion was held at this time

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Treasurer's Report

100 EDA General Fund Loan

\$(1,007,415.68)

240 EDA Fund

\$ 35,498.86

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2016 at 6:00 pm

## **1. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Daly. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lorie Lemieux  
Assistant Secretary EDA