

City of Columbus
Economic Development Authority
01.10.18

The 01.10.18 meeting of the City of Columbus Economic Development Authority was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were EDA Commissioners Mark Daly, Jeff Duraine, Denny Peterson, and Bill Krebs, Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko, Attorney Bill Griffith, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Jody Krebs, and City Engineer Dennis Postler.

A. APPROVAL – 11.08.18 EDA Minutes

Motion by Daly to approve the 11.08.18 EDA minutes. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL – 01.10.18 EDA Agenda

Motion by Daly to approve the agenda. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

C. OPEN BUSINESS

Review – Directional Signage Hornsby Street

The City's EDA and Council have been working on installing directional signage for the business district off TH 97 and Hornsby street. Mursko presented the most recent proposal to the Council for their consideration. There are three (3) options on the proposal; two of them have multiple slats and are approximately \$5,000.00 each, and the final option is a generic business district sign for \$2,550.00.

Krebs asked Mursko if there are any plans to have blank slats on the sign for future businesses? She replied that her understanding was that the slots would be for the 10 businesses who signed the petition and plan to pay a portion of the cost. Daly suggested that the generic business district sign be placed at the intersection of TH 97 and Hornsby Street, while the larger sign with multiple slats should be placed at the intersection of Hornsby Street at 152nd Avenue NE. The remaining EDA members agreed this was a good idea.

The question of maintenance was raised, and who would be responsible when the sign begins to degrade? City Attorney Bill Griffith replied that it will be the City's responsibility to maintain the sign, because it will ultimately be City property. Griffith continued to say that the EDA should assume that the other business districts in the City will likely ask for similar treatment when it comes to directional signage.

Mursko then asked the Council if they see this as a temporary or permanent sign? The consensus was that the sign should be permanent, but a condition should be added which says the topic of the sign can be revisited in five (5) years. The last question Mursko asked the Council is which

design they preferred? The consensus was that a double-sided sign “A” is agreeable, and the “Rural Nature, Urban Access” tagline should be removed in order to add more space for other businesses in the future.

Motion by Duraine to install a general business district sign at TH 97 and Hornsby Street, and a double-sided sign “A” without the tagline at Hornsby Street and 152nd Avenue NE. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.

D. NEW BUSINESS

2018 EDA Organizational Meeting

At this time the EDA’s organizational structure was discussed. The EDA’s consensus was to elect the same Board of Members and make no changes.

Motion by Peterson to maintain the same Board of Members for 2018. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.

2017 EDA Annual Report

Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes presented the 2017 EDA Annual Report to the Council for consideration.

Motion by Peterson to approve the 2017 EDA Annual Report, subject to correcting minor changes. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 Goals List

At the final EDA meeting of 2017 members discussed the City’s 2018 goals, and some questions were asked pertaining to them.

In terms of branding the City, Duraine asked if there has been discussion about increasing the size of the logo on City vehicles? President Povolny said he is interested in making the logo larger, but is not sure if the decals have been purchased. The EDA agreed to have this discussion during the following City Council meeting so that Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad could be part of the conversation.

The next questions were about billboards and other City signage. Mursko said that she is working on obtaining a quote for new vinyl on the City’s billboard. President Povolny asked about signage in the NE Quad and if the plan was still to put up a sign with the artist’s rendering of the area? Mursko replied yes. Krebs asked if the EDA was interested in putting some signage on the Fire Hall? There was some discussion about whether the sign should include “Columbus” or “Forest Lake”, since the Fire Hall is part of a Joint Powers Agreement. In the end President Povolny volunteered to mock up some designs for a Fire Hall sign with different verbiage for the EDA to consider. Mursko then asked the EDA what they envisioned for signage in the center of the City’s roundabout? President Povolny said that he imagined a circular brick wall with some designs in it. Daly suggested that the Park Board create some designs, and the EDA said they would be open to considering designs from the Bark Board. President Povolny added that the City should advertise for ideas on the City’s website and social media to see what type of a

response there is. Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes said she would post that information online.

Following that discussion, the EDA turned to the vacancy on the board. President Povolny reported that one (1) application has been received for the opening. He said that his intention is to have an extended conversation with the applicant before he makes a decision.

E. COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION

New Freeway Exit

President Povolny reported to the EDA that there was an article in the Pioneer Press which quoted himself and Mayor Winnick from Forest Lake, about looking at another freeway exit off of I 35. He said that there was a study done in 2004 which found that there is a need for a new exit on 80th Street. It is President Povolny's hope that Forest Lake, Lino Lakes, and Hugo can work together to pay for a traffic study to start the process of installing a new exit. He believes that in the near future there will be a lot of development coming to the area and better access to the southern portion of Columbus will be necessary.

F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Senior Housing Design Standards

Mursko brought up a concern that a Developer in the City has. It pertained to senior housing in Columbus and the specific design standards for garages, overhangs, and drainage and utilities easements. Right now, the City requires a 10-foot drainage and utility easement for senior housing. The homes themselves are 10 feet apart, and there is a proposed 2-foot overhang on each home. The Developer is suggesting that other Cities count the easement as starting from the foundation, while the City of Columbus starts the easement from a structure (which would include the overhang). The overhang, if not counted in the setback, would leave an 8-foot easement. Griffith said that he does not believe Columbus' easement is out of the ordinary as many suburban communities have 10-foot easements, and many urban communities have 5-foot easements. Mayor Povolny said that the logic behind the 10-foot easement is to ensure that fire trucks can get between buildings with no difficulty. Daly said he does not believe the overhangs would prevent fire trucks from getting where they need to be, and the more important consideration is whether the overhang is fire retardant. The EDA agreed that this is something that the Planning Commission should consider, and gave Mursko the approval to put the topic on their agenda for discussion.

Treasurer's Report

No report.

G. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is April 11th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Duraine to adjourn. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator