

City of Isanti
Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes of
July 22, 2008
Isanti City Hall

1. Call To Order

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Larry Kuechle, Louise Duff, Sue Larson and George Wimmer

Members Absent: David Jadinak

Staff Present: Community Development Director Vita

c. Agenda Modifications

None.

Motion by Larson, second by Wimmer to approve the agenda without modifications.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve Minutes of June 2008 Regular Economic Development Authority Meeting

Larson motioned, seconded by Wimmer to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Marketing Plan

Vita presented a Staff report and an update from the Isanti City Partnership (ICP) that met earlier that day.

Wimmer stated that the City needs marketing plan information for the City Council. Wimmer stated that on other projects the ICP prepared the initial work and Wimmer, Vita and other Staff would work to bring the item to a status to present to City Council. Wimmer stated that his plan would have Wimmer and Vita working on the project, presenting the material to ICP and then to the City Council in order to meet the budget timelines.

Duff stated that the EDA historically has had a detailed budget. Vita stated that the EDA continues to have a detailed budget, but this is for marketing funds beyond what is currently allocated. Vita stated that there are many good ideas and gave a sign example from City Administrator Lorsung. Duff stated that the City could “piggy-back” on the developer signs on a project.

Wimmer stated that the City needs to continue working with businesses to bring additional businesses into Isanti. Wimmer stated that the plan could also target businesses that the City would prefer to have within the community. Wimmer stated that the City could also pursue big mailings in the future. Wimmer stated that more money is needed within the Economic Development budget to have projects done right.

4. Land Use Guideline annual review

Vita presented a staff report.

Kuechle questioned if the board was tolerable with the \$1.5 / sq ft for the property.

Wimmer stated that the costs within the Land Use guidelines are for the current industrial park. Wimmer stated that with a new industrial park the City will have to create new guidelines and policies. Wimmer stated that last year the City increased the wage requirements. Vita stated that Staff will need to bring the item back next year for wage review at the minimum wage is planned to increase.

5. Isanti City Partnership - Update

Vita presented a staff memo.

6. County EDA Update

Wimmer discussed the Cambridge Development Alliance and the relationship with the Cambridge Depot. Wimmer stated that the CDA completed the work, lobbied and paid money for a depot site in Cambridge. Wimmer stated that the CDA has helped Cambridge in securing land for industrial purposes.

Wimmer stated that he still has concerns that the County will plan a levy without the plan on how to spend the funds.

Kuechle questioned when the passenger rail is planned to be operational. Wimmer stated 2011 to 2012. Wimmer stated that Cambridge has transportation issues and their intent is to fix their other transportation issues when they receive funding for the depot. Wimmer stated that the CDA has met with Congressman Oberstar on the matter.

7. Other Business / Updates

A) Downtown Update

Vita presented an update.

B) Isanti Retail Meats Project Update

Vita presented an update.

C) Other

Vita was questioned on the Burger Top status. Vita stated that the ICP had some concerns in which Staff worked on the sign removal and the building was secured, again. Duff stated that the EDA has worked on the Burger Top property for years. Duff stated that the EDA had the City Building Official review the situation to determine if the building could be demolished, but it did not meet the requirements.

Wimmer questioned when the ICP presented to the EDA board again.

8. Adjournment

Duff motioned, seconded by Larson to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Dated at Isanti Minnesota, this ____ day of August, 2008.

Respectively Submitted,

Carla MK Vita, Community Development Director