

Medford Economic Development Authority
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
5:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Duncan, Nelson, Just, Heisler, Wencil, Paulson, Merritt

Others in Attendance: Administrator Welti, John Anhorn, Michelle Jones, and Erin Sammon

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Duncan.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Heisler to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Heisler, seconded by Just to approve the meeting minutes from January as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Merritt, seconded by Heisler to approve the EDA Financial Report. Motion carried.

Community Growth Initiative

Erin Sammon, John Anhorn and Michelle Jones provided the EDA with an overview of the sign group's project to create new welcome signs to be placed near Medford city limits on Co Rd 12 and 45. The presenters reviewed a Powerpoint illustrating sign design, proposed locations, and budget. The permanent signs will include space for banners to be displayed highlighting community events and the work of nonprofit groups within the community; individual businesses will not be allowed to display signs or banners. The presenters asked for an EDA contribution of up to \$2,000 to cover unexpected expenses or to pay for upgrade items such as solar lights.

Motion by Paulson, seconded by Wencil to recommend to the City Council to authorize an EDA payment of up to \$2,000 to the CGI sign group to cover unexpected expenses or to pay for upgrades to the signs.

Mayor Nelson provided a brief update on an additional CGI project to create a nonprofit that will promote development of a trail on the Canadian Pacific rail line that passes through Medford if the line is eventually abandoned.

There was no new information to share regarding the potential Three Rivers Community Action development. Administrator Welti reported the Medford School District chose to not divide the 16 acre parcel of land, therefore, Three Rivers may look at other locations or may not move forward with the development.

Donna Mack of CEDA reported that she toured the city with the administrator and met with the Mayor as orientation to her position. She has conducted business retention and expansion visits of businesses throughout the City, provided grant funding resource information to the chair of the Medford Park Board, attended a Prairie Wildflower Trail organizational meeting, and followed up with two past business prospects. Donna is planning to continue to work with the Outlet Center, meet with the Owatonna Area Business Development Center, conduct business retention and expansion meetings, follow up with business prospects, identify additional grant opportunities, focus on commercial and industrial development, promote the EDA revolving loan fund, and research the need for daycare and wayfinding signs.

Business and Economic Development Updates: Administrator Welti reported that a couple developable parcels within Medford city limits have generated interest and inquiries from residential developers. Sharon Paulson reported on the Outlet's most recent addition, Bounce Town. Mayor Nelson and Sharon Paulson reported on their attendance at a regional tourism meeting in Faribault. The regional tourism group developed a website and pamphlet; Nelson and Paulson will further research the initiative.

The next EDA meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Merritt, seconded by Heisler to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion Carried.