

BRAINERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 7:30 a.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

WebEx Teleconference Meeting

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, President Erickson called the meeting of the Brainerd Economic Development Authority to order at 7:35 a.m.

Upon roll call Commissioners Marie Kirsch, Toni Bieser, Gabe Johnson, and Wayne Erickson were noted as present. Commissioners O'Day and Bevans were noted as absent. Also, present were City Administrator Bergman, Community Development Director Chanski, Finance Director Hillman, Eric Charpentier, HRA Director, and Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC.

Approval/Amendment of the Agenda- Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS KIRSCH AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Approval of Minutes- Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BIESER AND KIRSCH, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2021 MEETING.

Financial Report- Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BIESER AND KIRSCH, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED.

Updates

Executive Director

Administrator Bergman stated that the City Council authorized an agreement with Region 5 for the Annex space. The exam station will be reopening, during meetings with a representative she expressed a need for Department of Public Safety to have an office here in the City of Brainerd. Crow Wing County is interested in providing facilities. DW Jones was not successful in receiving low-income tax credits for Eight05 Laurel, they are looking at continuing planning for market rate housing. Finally, she again thanked the community partners for hosting fantastic Sesquicentennial events, Intern Ernster for her hard work on coordination of the events.

Community Development Director Chanski stated that the Parking Commission has developed recommendations for the City Council to review at a workshop on Monday, October 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The recommendations include wayfinding, management, and pedestrian friendly for the downtown district. One of the recommendations involves 90% of net revenue from the parking revenue be designated to the EDA for downtown improvements.

HRA Update

Eric Charpentier, HRA Director, stated that the boiler system in the NorthStar Building is nearing completion, it has been a very smooth transition. Finally, the HRA has been engaged with developers that are looking at developing single family homes, potential partnerships, and decreasing the housing shortage. Development continues in Brainerd Oaks, Serene Pines, and Del Mar.

BLAEDC Update

Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC, stated that BLAEDC's rebrand has launched with its new website. The residential recruitment focus group that was open to the business community after the previous meeting hosted 35-40 participants to discuss what business owners and partners can do to deal with retention issues. Benefits survey by the Chamber and BLAEDC has gone out to businesses to identify what benefits are available to the business community.

Old Business

EDA Economic Development Services Request for Proposals

Community Development Director Chanski stated that Commissioners Kirsch, Johnson, and O'Day met with staff to develop the RFP framework for requests for Economic Services. The proposals are to be categorized in 8 buckets for organizations to submit proposals for their specialty. The entire 2022 levy amount is budgeted for the services. The proposed schedule for begins in November with adoption of services in February.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BIESER AND KIRSCH,
DULY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE RFP WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES.

American Rescue Plan Discussion

Community Development Director Chanski stated that the City Council will be discussing the use of ARPA funds at a workshop on November 8th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Commission discussion took place.

The commissioners will bring suggestions to the November 2nd EDA meeting so that staff can submit priorities to the City Council.

Comments/Questions

Commissioner Bieser asked about the possibility of creation of a guide to starting a business in the City of Brainerd. She also asked again about the expansion of social media, the discussion will continue with staff.

Commissioner Johnson commented that the YMCA launched a new capital campaign to expand their childcare campaign.

Adjournment

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND KIRSCH , DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The Authority adjourned at 9:15 a.m.


Secretary/Treasurer