

BRAINERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Thursday, November 4, 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 7:30 a.m.

Upon roll call Commissioners Kelly Bevans, Mike O'Day, Marie Kirsch, Toni Bieser, Gabe Johnson, and Wayne Erickson were noted as present. 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 BEVANS AND O'DAY, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Approval of Minutes- Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BEVANS AND O'DAY, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2021 MEETING.

Financial Report- Approved

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

Updates

Executive Director

Administrator Bergman stated that Region 5 was not awarded funds through the DEED grant. The Initiative Foundation had 3 applications and were not awarded any of the grants. Region 5 is still hopeful to continue pursuing the Annex building. Holiday banners are going up. The streetlight policy by the Public Works Department is in the working including types of lighting, they are working on pricing out the different types. The ARPA dollars discussion will take place in January. The Charter Commission has provided 3 charter amendments in 2021. The current amendment includes appropriations for senior programs, community action programs, and green space programs more broadly within the city limits. The Public Utilities Commission chapter is in the works.

Community Development Director Chanski stated that the Parking Commission met with the City Council to share their recommendations on parking in the downtown area. Overall, the recommendations were well received. There is a warming shelter that has an application for interim use at 1926 S. 7th St., a public hearing for the Ordinance will be held on November 15th, and a public hearing for the application will be held on

November 17th at Planning Commission. The application will then go on to City Council for final approval. The Economic Development Services RFP has gone out and will be due November 26th.

HRA Update

Eric Charpentier, HRA Director, stated that the boiler system in the NorthStar Building is nearing completion. The HRA met with a new developer that will be applying for multi-family funding request in 2022, they have a property identified and are hoping to start construction by 2023. Crow Wing County funding for rehab through the Housing Trust Fund has an applicant and is hopeful for a new project. Development is at 59 properties in Brainerd Oaks and 16 in Serene Pines to the developer. The developer is out pacing the development agreement. Warming Shelter is coming along smoothly, best case for opening is early December.

BLAEDC Update

Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC, stated that BLAEDC was celebrating 5 years of their recruitment program. This year there have been 19 direct hires, 27 spousal referrals, and conducted 14 work force presentations. BLAEDC provided \$900 to the BHS Young Entrepreneurs Class. The YMCA was not awarded the DEED Mainstreet grant for \$300,000 needed to develop a new childcare center. The grant awarded only 35% of its funds to greater Minnesota. The benefits study will be complete at the end of November. BLAEDC is facilitating Crow Wing County's handling of \$500,000 in ARPA funds to go to Childcare grants in Crow Wing County.

Old Business

Goals Status Update

Community Development Director Chanski stated the goals are at a holding pattern due to waiting for the consultants that may come forward with the RFP. Confident that goals are on track for 2022.

Comments/Questions

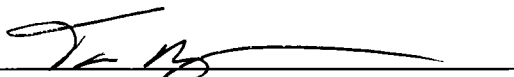
Commissioner Bieser commented that social media presence has been noticeable. Requests that staff look at Instagram.

Commissioner Kirsch gave an update on the Destination Downtown Brainerd Coalition (DDBC) Events. The Spooktacular Event took place and 1200 kids, and their families came to the event, the excitement was palpable. Small Business Saturday is taking place at the end of November and free activities on Saturdays for families.

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