

BRAINERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Thursday, March 6 2025, 7:30 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, President Yeager called the special meeting of the Brainerd Economic Development Authority to order at 7:30 a.m.

Upon roll call Commissioners Toni Bieser, Justin Grecula, Gabe Johnson, Marie Kirsch, Mike O'Day, Paul Sandy, and Kevin Yeager were noted as present.

Staff present were Community Development Director Kramvik, and Executive Director Broyles.

Annual Meeting

Elect Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS O'DAY AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, TO ELECT KEVIN YEAGER AS PRESIDENT, TONI BIESER AS VICE PRESIDENT, AND MARIE KIRSCH AS SECRETARY.

Annual Approval of Bylaws

Commissioner Johnson suggested changing the Executive Director position back to the Community Development Director.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS O'DAY AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, TO AMENDING THE BYLAWS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS SANDY AND O'DAY TO APPROVE THE BYLAWS.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND GRECULA, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Consent Calendar

Approval of Minutes
Financial Reports
Swanson Haskamp Report
DDBC Report
Visit Brainerd Report

Commissioner Bieser requested data from the website from Visit Brainerd.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS SANDY AND GRECULA TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

Upon roll call, Commissioners Bieser, Grecula, Johnson, Kirsch, O'Day, Sandy, and Yeager voted "aye". No commissioner voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

New Business

Review 2024 EDA Measurables and Activities

Community Development Director Kramvik gave an overview of the 2024 measurables.

Commissioner Kirsch really appreciated the summary, she stated that having the measurables was very helpful to establish a baseline.

Chair Yeager stated that he will be able to use the summary to explain what the EDA does.

Review Preliminary Framework for 2025

Community Development Director Kramvik gave an overview of the preliminary framework for consultants to establish their plans for 2025.

Chair Yeager stated that the City Council asked for a way to track open items, he would like to see the same thing for the EDA.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the document would be public facing as a part of each meeting.

Discuss Agenda for April EDA Workshop

Community Development Director Kramvik proposed four topics for the scheduled workshop.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the small cities grant in connection with Washington Street.

HRA Director Charpentier stated that the small cities grant will not encompass housing on Washington Street.

Commissioner Johnson requested that housing and HRA be included in the discussion.

Commissioner Kirsch stated that the Chamber and BLAEDC have been meeting about the mitigation plan and potential budget. She requested that this be included in discussion.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BIESER AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE EDA WORKSHOP.

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Kramvik stated that staff will be setting up their 1st quarter business visit for the EDA. BlockMetrix has submitted building plans for their property on Thiesse Drive.

Jennifer Haskamp, Swanson-Haskamp, stated that the websites that host the property listings have seen a significant spike in activity due to Kamp Realty being in the news recently.

Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC, stated that they will continue to move forward with planning for the Washington Street mitigation. BLAEDC may potentially be looking for a new administrative specialist.

HRA Director Charpentier stated that MN Housing is moving forward with its expansion of the voucher program that may bring 35-45 vouchers to Crow Wing County to administer, housing trust fund dollars, and an infrastructure grant. Eight05 Laurel is at bit of a standstill but continues to be creative about funding.

Commissioner Johnson asked about long term funding of the voucher program expansion.

HRA Director Charpentier stated that the voucher program is typically built into base, but not adjusted for inflation. It is a concern that the purchasing power may dwindle overtime.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Grecula thanked staff for setting up the childcare tours.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he attended the downtown business social, it is growing immensely.

Commissioner Kirsch stated that there have been two socials thus far, they have moved to a monthly model. It has been a great avenue for making connections. She stated that the St. Patrick's Day parade is on March 15th downtown and the DDBC is organizing a shopping promotion the week prior.

Commissioner O'Day stated that the Council retreat is scheduled for March 10th. He is hopeful that the Council will touch on internal and external goals for the next couple of years.

Chair Yeager is very proud of the work the EDA does.

Adjourn

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

The Authority adjourned at 8:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Toni Gage