

BRAINERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Thursday, July 5, 2007

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, President Menk called the meeting of the Brainerd Economic Development Authority to order at 8:03 A.M.

Present were Commissioners Menk, Nesheim, and Kummet.

Also present were City Administrator Vogt, Ms. Elissa Rogers representing BLADC, and Ms. Emily Roragen representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Noted absent were Commissioners O'Day, Pearson, Bonde, and Johnson.

NOTE: It was decided that this would not be an official meeting as there was not a quorum present; however, discussion would be held on the "Region 5 Funding Opportunities" item, as the deadline for submission is July 15, 2007.

#2 **Approval/Amendment of Agenda – N/A.**

#3 **Approval of Minutes – Held Over.**

#4 **Region 5 Funding Opportunities – Discussion Held.**

The Chair recognized Ms. Elisa Rogers, BLADC, who distributed information on and discussed submission instructions and various projects being suggested for the Region 5 Funding Opportunities including: The Brainerd Regional Human Services Center (BRHSC), Brainerd Industrial Park Expansion, The Brainerd Regional Airport, A Regional Center for Performing Arts, and Brainerd Downtown Municipal Infrastructure Improvements.

BRAINERD REGIONAL HUMAN SERVICES CENTER:

City Administrator Vogt discussed the issue of tax-exemption for the BRHSC, and stated that there had been a meeting with MN Teen Challenge who are very interested in buildings 9 and 10 at the BRHSC upon obtaining funding. He stated that part of the process of getting the buildings at BRHSC occupied is the cost of converting to an HVAC System, and that there are known issues with the infrastructure system so once an implementation plan is in place the State can hopefully use some State bonding money to take care of these costs.

Ms. Rogers stated that job creation is going to be a "selling point" for which projects will be chosen.

BRAINERD INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION:

City Administrator Vogt stated that the City received a \$375,000 from DEED for the Harold Thiesse property south of Lexington Manufacturing, and the infrastructure of this project is currently out for bids. He stated that bid on the Wright Street Extension, as well as other bids coming in on projects in this area are coming in under estimate, and that any funds that would assist in lowering the cost of the infrastructure will beneficially lower the cost of the land to be sold and developed.

BRAINERD REGIONAL AIRPORT:

City Administrator Vogt stated that in meetings that have been held regarding this issue, and that a reimbursement development agreement has been discussed; however the developer has decided to start going through some land use plans before infrastructure plans. He stated that he is concerned about this project, because of the potential expense to taxpayers.

PERFORMING ARTS:

It was decided that this project is possibly too vast to include as a single item.

DOWNTOWN MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT:

It was decided that specific areas of interest should be applied for with backing of legal infrastructure requirements included.

Suggestions of whether to submit large or small projects, and of how many to submit were discussed. Included in the discussion were the Cuyuna Trail system, College Drive, and Downtown Streetscape Design and how these projects will contribute to job retention in the community.

#5 Downtown Coordinator Report.

Ms. Emily Roragen, Downtown Coordinator, summarized her report which had been distributed to the Commissioners before the meeting. She stated that she has been getting to know more and more people and that the reception to her being a part of the reconstruction has been very favorable. She discussed the coming of "Crazy Days" in Downtown Brainerd on July 27th and 28th, and hoped this would bring in more people with the added organization and awareness.

City Administrator Vogt stated that at the Council meeting on July 2nd, Alderman Bob Olson volunteered to become a member of the Brainerd Downtown Advisory Committee.

#6 Commissioners' Comments/Questions.

Ms. Rogers stated that there have been callers to BLADC wondering about prices and availability of some Downtown buildings, which seems like a positive sign.

#7 Adjourn.

The President stated that because the meeting is not "official," there would be no official adjournment action necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Johnson, Secretary
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