

MAY 13, 2015 WASHBURN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4:00 P.M. Washburn Public Library – Book Bin Room

Members Present: Rick M. Geisen, John Baregi, Peter Bremner;
Nathan Engstrom, Christine Kelly, Taylor Pearson,
Jon Wheeler

Members Absent: None

Municipal Personnel Present: City Administrator Scott J. Kluver; Ken
Cammilleri, Assistant City Administrator

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair Geisen in the Book Bin Room of the Library at 4:01 p.m. Richard Avol, James Nowakowski, and Nick Wills were noted as guests.

Oaths of Office and Election of Chair/Vice Chair – Oaths of office for new/renewing members taken. Baregi moved and Kelly seconded to retain Geisen and Pearson as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Motion carried 6-0. Wheeler entered meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2015 – Baregi moved and Pearson seconded to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and Action on Façade Loan Application for Coco’s, 144 & 146 W. Bayfield St – Mr. Nick Wills was present to explain the proposed project for Coco’s. The property ownership would be restructured, a new business plan has been created, and improvements to the property have been proposed. A letter was received from Chippewa Valley Bank indicating no objection to the plans as there has been some debate as to where the property lines are actually located. Bremner moved and Baregi seconded to approve a façade loan in the amount of \$5,000 for the proposed project to improve the windows, awning, and patio. Discussion. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion with Chamber of Commerce on Proposed Areas of Collaboration – Chamber President Jim Nowakowski was present to discuss the letter he had previously sent, and provided an update on the status of the Chamber, and explained how the Chamber is funded. Mr. Nowakowski expressed his desire to obtain financial stability for the Chamber, establish operating procedures, advertise events and improve the website, get the board actively involved, establish controls, rebuild credibility, and represent business interests. Bremner expressed that he would like the WDA to consider ways the City could financially assist the Chamber if there are good projects that need assistance. Significant discussion occurred. Nowakowski would like to come back to the WDA in September after Homecoming activities and have some more specifics that could be discussed. Bremner re-iterated his desire to get a full time Chamber director that is well paid, who can build connections, and to help get the City to grow.

Update on Habitat for Humanity Activities – Engstrom stated that Habitat is planning to construct a home in Washburn. They are currently fundraising, preparing plans, seeking volunteers, and soliciting for a family to occupy the home. Further information can be found at <http://www.cheqbayhabitat.org/> . Engstrom also stated that a request to contribute to the project will be presented at the next meeting.

Discussion and Action on Marketing of Property South of Omaha Street – Significant

information was provided in the packet and reviewed. Bremner met with David Barry and Jay Emmert regarding marketing the property. Discussion occurred and two options were considered – prepare and RFP or hire a commercial real estate broker. Further discussion occurred. Kluver is to ask Northwest Regional Planning as to how they can help. Kelly moved and Baregi seconded to allow for a survey of the property, to include utilities, be conducted as a cost not to exceed \$2,000. Discussion. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion of Utility Connection Requirements – Information on past programs and possibilities were discussed. Wheeler and Camilleri are to get together to discuss the issue further.

Discussion on Website Content – Discussion deferred until the next meeting.

Future Agenda Item Topics – Follow-up on previous items, website content

Adjourn – Pearson moved and Wheeler seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott J. Kluver
Executive Director