

**Wednesday, October 14 2015**

**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

4:00 PM Washburn Library

Committee Members: Rick Geisen, John Baregi, Peter Bremner, Nathan Engstrom.

Excused: Christine Kelly, Taylor Pearson.

Municipal Personnel: Mayor Griffiths, Council Member Mary Nowakowski, Plan Commission Member Richard Avol, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Dan Stoltman.

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM by Rick Geisen

**Approval of Minutes from the July 8th Proceeding** – Motion by Baregi, seconded by Bremner to approve the August 12, 2015 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Progress Report and Discussion with Cedar Corporation on the Redevelopment of City-Owned Property South of Omaha Street.** Seth Hudson from Cedar Corporation was in attendance to discuss the progress and future plans. Mr. Hudson has met with representatives from Xcel Energy to discuss issues such as potential costs of moving above ground power lines to underground, what the time frame might be in moving the power lines and how local businesses would be impacted, and locating gas lines. Mr. Hudson discussed potential layouts, and type of use (residential/commercial), and reviewing previous plans for the property. Discussion on who may also be interested in this project, such as realtors or bankers, and their input being useful. Mr. Hudson discussed looking at data on “work force” problems, and using that data to help in determining how that property should be developed. Looking at population trends. Committee Member Geisen asked for Mr. Hudson’s opinion on using the development for commercial use. Mr. Hudson expressed concern over using the development for primarily commercial, because it could take business away from already established business in the downtown area. He suggested perhaps utilizing parts of the development for commercial use for businesses that do not already exist in the downtown. Mr. Hudson emphasized that connecting the downtown and waterfront to the new development is the most significant in importance. Mr. Kluver informed Mr. Hudson that the city had acquired an additional .6 acres in the development area. A discussion was had on the possibilities of a higher end hotel being built next to the development area, replacing the current Washburn Inn, which is in foreclosure. A discussion was had on when the committee and Cedar Corporation meet again (tentatively November 18<sup>th</sup>), and whom additionally should be invited to it (realtors, bankers, etc.).

**Future Agenda Item Topic.** The Mayor spoke of finding a new member to fill the current opening. A discussion was had on reviewing the ordinance that indicates only Washburn residence can sit on Committees. The option of amending that to allow for one or two seats to be open to non-residence of Washburn in order to gain an outside perspective was discussed. The Mayor brought up a possible presentation from the Center of Rural Communities Study at the next meeting.

**Adjournment** - Motion by Baregi, seconded by Bremner to adjourn the meeting at 4:50PM. Motion carried unanimously.

**Dan Stoltman**  
**Assistant City Administrator**