

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:00 PM Washburn Library - Basement

Committee Members: Rick Geisen (late), John Baregi, Nathan Engstrom, Christine Kelly, Taylor Pearson.

Excused: Peter Bremner

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 4:05PM by Vice Chair Pearson.

Approval of Minutes from the October 14, 2015 Proceeding – Motion by Baregi, seconded by Kelly to approve the October 14, 2015 minutes. Kluver noted that an error was discovered after the meeting minutes had been sent to the committee members, but had already been corrected. Motion carried 4-0 with a correction to the date of approval of the previous minutes.

Discussion and Action on Approval of Payment for Wills/Coco's Façade Loan – Invoices and “after photos” have been submitted on the improvements made to the Coco's exterior. Improvements have been found to be in compliance with the policy. Baregi moved and Kelly seconded to approve disbursing the \$5,000 in funds for the Wills/Coco's façade loan. Motion carried 4-0. Kelly noted that it was a good example of how the program works, and how it can benefit the downtown area.

Presentation and Discussion with Brandon Hofstedt of Northland College of Social Capital and Assets and Amenities Study of the Ashland/Washburn Area – Hofstedt did a presentation on data collected on small, upper Midwest communities, focusing on education demographics and how Washburn compares. Economic development perceptions of Washburn residents were also discussed. A question and answer period followed. (*Geisen arrived at 4:30*)

Progress Report and Discussion with Cedar Corporation on the Redevelopment of City-Owned Property South of Omaha Street - Patrick Beilfuss and Seth Hudson from Cedar Corporation were in attendance to discuss the progress and future plans. A handout was provided on various information and items that were gathered to be considered in the report being prepared for the subject property. The newly acquired city land adjacent to the Steak Pit has also been included in the subject area. Cedar believes that they will be able to present additional information on January 20, if they are allowed to meet with area realtors and bankers in the meantime. A meeting with Mr. Mick Anderson, owner of the former County Forestry building, is also being sought. Consensus among members to let that happen, as long as they were informed of those meetings so they could attend as well if available.

Future Agenda Items - Unless additional action items come forward, the next meeting will be on January 20, 2016 focusing on the update on the redevelopment of City land by Cedar Corp.

Adjournment - Motion by Geisen, seconded by Baregi to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 5:15 p.m.

Scott J. Kluver
City Administrator