



MINUTES
New Brighton Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting – September 7, 2022
7:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present.....Chair Harry Carter, Commissioners Faycal Belkhous, Michele Norman (attending remotely), Anthony Pledger (attending remotely), Victoria Prasek (attending remotely), and Jacqui Sauter (attending remotely)

Members Absent.....Commissioner Paul Zisla

Also PresentBen Gozola – Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development, Carl Gillies – DCAD Technician, and Councilmember Pam Axberg (attending remotely)

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Sauter, seconded by Commissioner Pledger to approve the agenda as presented.

Approved 7-0

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Pledger, seconded by Commissioner Belkhous to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2022 meeting.

Approved 7-0

V. Report from Council Liaison

Councilmember Axberg provided the EDC with an update from the City Council. She stated the Council recently reviewed the results from the community survey. She noted this information would be coming to the EDC at a future meeting. She reported Council has been working to create a single family residential rental inspection program. She explained renovations had begun at Sunny Square Park. Lastly, she noted the Council was working on the 2023 budget and tax levy.

VI. Business Items

A. Vision Silver Lake Road 2040 Phase II Results and Final Steps

Gozola provided an update on the results of Vision Silver Lake Road 2040 Phase II and explained the next steps in the mixed use zoning development process. The history of the project was discussed with the Commission along with how the City worked to engage the community. He commented further on the future concept plans for the Rice Street and Mississippi Street node, the I-694 node and the St. Anthony/County Road E node. It was noted HKGi was currently preparing final visual concepts for each node illustrating what zoning may allow.

Discussion included:

- The Commission had concerns with there being more apartments along Silver Lake Road. Staff commented on how the area was guided for mixed use, which included residential and commercial uses.
- The affordable housing goals set by the Met Council for New Brighton were discussed.

B. Ramsey County Critical Corridors Grants

Gozola reported on August 31st, Ramsey County announced and opened three new critical corridor grants programs to support its goals throughout the County. These new pots of money are intended to be available on a yearly basis moving forward and will likely be offered at different times of the year starting in 2023, but it's a quick turn-around in 2022 during this initial offering. Applications are due by September 28th, so identifying targets for these funds is a top priority. The provided staff report outlines each program, what is and is not eligible, and ideas that DCAD staff have for potential applications. The EDC is asked to examine all three programs, and either endorse one or more ideas presented by staff, or identify other avenues you believe we should pursue. Once Council identifies our final priorities, staff will prepare the grant applications.

Discussion included:

- The Commission supported staff working to pursue more grant dollars. Staff noted he would be pursuing grants in all three categories.
- The Commission was interested in the City pursuing banners for the corridor to assist in creating a sense of place.
- The Commission thanked staff for the detailed report.

C. Business Outreach Updates

DCAD Technician Carl Gillies updated the Commissioners on the status of the outreach program, reviewed the current Business Visit Questionnaire and reviewed the recent City Newsletter. He reported he was working to create an updated email list for newsletter distribution.

Discussion included:

- Commissioner Sauter commented on the meetings she has held with local businesses and discussed how she was working to fill in missing contact data.
- The Commission discussed the benefit of connecting directly with local business owners.
- The Commission suggested the compiled list of emails be made public data in order to allow other organizations, such as Stockyard Days, to be able to contact local businesses.
- The Commission requested name badges or business cards in order to present this information to local businesses when they visit. Staff noted they would look into creating name badges for the EDC members.
- The Commission looked forward to speaking with the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce to see how they can coordinate efforts.
- The Commission suggested the Lions be invited to a future meeting as well to discuss how the EDC can partner with Stockyard Days.

VII. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Pledger to adjourn the meeting.

Approved 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 am

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Gozola". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and a cursive "G".

Ben Gozola
Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development