

CITY OF ANOKA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Call to Order: Chairperson Thompson called the EDC meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North in the City of Anoka.

Roll Call: EDC Members present were: Mike Allen, Brian Beaudoin, Mathew Finn, Jeff Lee (arrived at 8:10 a.m.), Ephantus Mwangi, Curt Rekstad, Dave Sanasac, Julie Smith, and Logan Thompson. EDC members absent were: None. Staff present: Community Development Director Doug Borglund

Approval of Minutes: MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REKSTAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2023 EDC MEETING, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking Advisory Board Representative: Chairperson Thompson opened the floor for nominations for the position.

Commissioner Smith stated that if someone else were interested in the position she would be fine giving that up.

Commissioner Sanasac confirmed that he was interested in the appointment.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BEAUDOIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REKSTAD, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER SANASAC TO THE PARKING ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

EDC Goals and Accomplishments: Mr. Borglund stated that based on the discussion at the previous meeting he drafted 2022 accomplishments and 2023 goals. He welcomed input from the group. He noted that the goals proposed for 2023 do align with the draft goals of the City Council. He provided additional details on follow up business visits that could occur if requested from a business completing the survey.

The Commission confirmed consensus of the accomplishments and goals as drafted.

Commissioner Finn noted that item four in the goals would have a high impact and may help to promote other things, such as events.

Mr. Borglund stated that the goals could be organized in order or priority, or additional discussion could be added to make that note to the Council.

Commissioner Finn stated that perhaps there would even be grant funding available to support that initiative. He stated that it would be a great time to move on that item with the summer months coming.

Mr. Borglund stated that there are City staff working on grant opportunities and perhaps it would be helpful for him to gather additional background information on that work.

Commissioner Lee asked that perhaps that be done at the next meeting. He stated that having that information related to grant requests for the dam and other projects in downtown would be helpful.

Commissioner Beaudoin noted that bike racks are pretty affordable and would perhaps be the first step.

Chairperson Thompson stated that perhaps they could also offer sponsorship opportunities for bike racks.

Commissioner Finn stated that he was also thinking about that concept of allowing private or business donations for the purchase of bike racks, perhaps offering recognition.

Commissioner Sanasac commented that the largest producer of bike racks is located in Anoka County, in Fridley.

Mr. Borglund stated that perhaps this is a recommendation the group could bring to the Park Commission as that group has an annual budget and funding. He stated that he can have discussions with staff and bring back more information to the next meeting.

Commissioner Smith noted that something else that could be considered would be bike lanes, as bikes are not supposed to bike on the sidewalks.

Commissioner Lee stated that perhaps there be discussion about developing a safe bike route on Main Street.

Mr. Borglund stated that there is parking on each side of Main Street that is very valuable. He stated that this can be a continued discussion.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LEE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER [REDACTED], TO APPROVE THE 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2023 GOALS AS DRAFTED. MOTION CARRIED.

March EDC Anoka Enterprise Park Event Planning: Mr. Borglund provided background information on the Enterprise Park annual meeting. He reviewed ideas for the agenda.

Commissioner Finn commented that this is a good meeting for members of the Commission to attend as you find out a lot about the activity within the enterprise park.

He asked if the zoning would allow for food trucks or restaurants within that business park.

Mr. Borglund replied that food trucks are only allowed through special events. He stated that the City does not typically allow food trucks because those trucks are not from the community, compete with the local brick and mortar locations, and take those dollars out of the community. He provided more background on the purpose of the annual meeting and those that are invited.

Commissioner Lee suggested inviting someone from the tech college to provide information on job fairs.

Mr. Borglund stated that he does have a connection with the tech college and could extend that invite. He noted that a representative from the college has come to the meeting in the past to provide information on training and other programs they offer.

Commissioner Lee asked if it would make sense to allow the new businesses to introduce themselves.

Mr. Borglund stated that he could send those businesses an invitation. He summarized the proposed agenda items and confirmed the consensus of the Commission in support.

MN Legislature/Cannabis Bill Update: Mr. Borglund provided an update on the proposed cannabis bill before the legislature, as well as other proposed bills that could have local impacts.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Marketing and Communications Updates:

- Discover Anoka: No comments.
- Chamber of Commerce: No comments.
- ABLA: No comments.

Subcommittee Updates: None.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Discuss March Meeting Agenda: Chairperson Thompson noted that the staff member was going to be invited to provide an update on the City's grant applications.

Commissioner Finn stated that perhaps a member of the Park Commission be invited as well.

Mr. Borglund stated that he would begin with staff. He stated that they will continue to plan for the Enterprise meeting, and he can provide an update at the EDC meeting.

Staff Update: No comments.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner Lee, a second by Commissioner Beaudoin, and a unanimous vote of those present at 8:52 a.m.

Amanda Staple, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*