

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MAY 15, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Kuchinka called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 415 Central St. W.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pierskalla, Dietz, Furrer, Duban, Kuchinka, Lieske and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator Joel Erickson

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

2. AGENDA

Kuchinka asked if anyone had any additions or deletions to the agenda. Erickson request that the Small Cities Development Grant, location of the compost site, downtown signs and the B-3 zoning district amendments be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda with the additions. Vote for: Pierskalla, Dietz, Furrer, Duban, Kuchinka, Lieske and Smith Against: None Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2008 REGULAR MEETING

Kuchinka asked if anyone had any addition or deletions to the minutes. A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Lieske to approve the minutes of April 17, 2008 meeting. Vote for: Pierskalla, Dietz, Furrer, Duban, Kuchinka, Lieske and Smith Against: None Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Erickson reviewed the April 2008 Treasurer's report. Furrer asked what the \$15.66 expense was for. Erickson stated it was for a nameplate. A motion was made by Lieske and seconded by Duban to approve the April 2008 Treasurer Report. Vote for: Pierskalla, Dietz, Furrer, Duban, Kuchinka, Lieske and Smith. Against: None Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discuss EDA Sign Possibility – 4' x 20' LED Sign

Erickson reviewed the location of the sign and past discuss held by the EDA. Duban said the sign is on the wrong side of the road from people entering Lonsdale. Erickson said ideally, the sign should be located on the north side of Highway 19. Kuchinka asked Erickson if he contacted Doug Hughes with Steele Waseca Electric. Erickson replied no. Kuchinka said the cost to operate the sign on a monthly basis would be around \$20.00. There was general discussion on the sign. Kuchinka asked what the Board wanted to do. Dietz said she liked the sign because it provides a means of communication with people. Smith said the sign needs to look nice and presentable. Dietz asked about maintenance, billing for advertising and insurance. Furrer said local contractors should be contacted for pricing for the landscaping around the sign and a retaining wall. It was the consensus of the EDA to have Wade Fradenburgh of Bonanza Signs, Inc. to attend the next EDA meeting to answer any questions of the EDA. A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Furrer to table the topic pending further information. Vote for: Pierskalla, Dietz, Furrer, Duban, Kuchinka, Lieske and Smith. Against: None Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

b. Update on Proposed Business Park

Erickson stated that the developer and property owner have met twice and are working towards an agreement on the land cost. Kuchinka asked if the EDA had the cart before the horse by doing the study. Erickson said yes and no because there is valuable information in the study. There was discussion on the market study done.

c. Discuss MN Design Team

Erickson reviewed the information contained in the workbook. He said the EDA basically already did this by completing the streetscape visioning in 2007 and the meeting information could be used when the project is considered in the future. Kuchinka said the information was good and informational. Furrer said the streetscape project is still pretty fresh. Lieske said it is not the best time to bring up the streetscape given the vacant buildings and state of the economy. There was general discussion on the streetscape project. Furrer suggested doing the streetscape project on a limited basis. There was general discussion on landscaping ideas/options and purchasing new light poles and planters/hanging baskets. Kuchinka left the meeting at 7:57 am. There was general discussion on vacant buildings and possibly providing financial incentives for Main Street businesses to make improvements to their properties. Pierskalla asked if the EDA has been or is going to write a guest column in the newspaper.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss Ideas for EDA Page of City Website

There was discussion on the contents of the EDA's web page. The consensus of the EDA was to include everything the EDA has to offer for financial incentives, links to various agencies and the streetscape project.

b. Small Cities Development Grant

Erickson said the reason the SCDG application was denied was because it was only for Lonsdale and MN DEED is looking for joint applications to spread the improvements over several communities. He said he has spoken to the City of Montgomery and they are applying for a grant in 2008. Erickson also said he has spoken to Pettipiece and Associates about submitting a joint application with Montgomery in 2008 for funding in 2009. The EDA thought this was a good idea.

c. Location of Compost Site

Erickson said the Park Board is looking to move the compost site so improvements can be made to Sticha Park and they recommended the compost site be moved to the current industrial park. Erickson recommended the compost site not go in this location. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Dietz to recommend to the City Council that the compost site not be located in the industrial park. Vote for: Pierskalla, Dietz, Furrer, Duban, Lieske and Smith. Against: None Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

d. Review of Downtown Business Directional Signage

Erickson said this was talked about several meetings ago. He asked the EDA what businesses they would like to see on the signs. Dietz left the meeting at 8:25 am. Discussion focused on the corner businesses not being on the signs due to current visibility and limit space on the signs for retail businesses. Smith left the meeting at 8:30 am.

e. Review of Proposed B-3 (Central Business District) Zoning Amendments

Erickson said the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing regarding the B-3 (Central Business District) in the evening. Pierskalla left the meeting at 8:45 am. He said the main reason for the hearing pertains to allowing residential rental units on the second floor of business. There was general discussion on rental units.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

a. None

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Duban, Lieske and Furrer. Against: None Vote 3-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator