

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 – 8:00 A.M.

Present-James Tieberg, Carl Baranzelli, Rob Marwick, John Tourville, Kim Culbert-Blaeser

Also present: Pamela LaBine, Wendy Summers, Bernie Collins, Joe Guertin

Called to order at 8:04 a.m.

I. Minutes Approval (October 1, 2015)

Moved by Marwick supported by Baranzelli to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried

II. Finance Reports

1. Check Register—no check register available yet, \$96.01 balance in account
2. Budget Appropriation Report
3. Revolving Loan Fund-Aszendrops LLC, made one payment and we are holding two checks, they are still a couple months behind. Paulsen is one month behind.

Miskovich entered meeting at 8:08 a.m.

Custom framing is paid off.

III. President's Report

Decorating downtown, Joe Guertin's building is decorated and the Salvation Army building will be done today. The next one is across from Wells Fargo, there should be other people involved too, will try to get as many stores decorated as the decorations allow, can use the Salvation Army decorations if they are returned.

It's nice to see Hwy 53 activity, positive economic development. Baranzelli noted there will not be a noise problem.

Bernie Collins noted that they used to decorate trees in Olcott Pak. Tourville said council made the decision to dispose of decorations quite some time ago they also had large physical object decorations.

IV. New Business

1. Apple Tree Daycare is interested in getting a loan, the building is old, they need vent covers and gym lights and entry way carpet and tile, waiting to hear more information on this.
2. Michael Miskovich agreed to continue on commission
3. Rob Marwick is done the end of the month, Tom Bartovich would like to apply, recommend appointment. He works at Mt Iron office American Bank.

John Tourville is aware of the mall issue and has met with Thunderbird mall owners, and the infrastructure is in bad condition, looking at the K-Mart site as a potential hotel, they want to repurpose the mall, it is the Zenith group out of Duluth, K-mart's lease is coming up and we will see what they decide to do.

Currently working with Natural Harvest on their new development, they will have a conference area for use, and a patio.

Proposing possibly a year round bathroom near the trail, look at decorating the area during the Holidays in the future.

The fountain doesn't have year round lighting, possibly look into that.
Discussed the funding on the Olcott Fountain and the process on obtaining grants

V. Old Business/Updates

1. City Update—Hwy 53 all the activity, the downside for city \$3m gap in funding, Gary Cerkvenik is helping to look for funding the gap, Costs are high, for the project.

The Comp plan will be approved on Dec 15th, jump start with the focus on downtown and trails area. Three Councillors will take the lead on this.

Poly-Met moving along public comment ends 12-14-15 so far there are good comments on the project as well as negative. Good reactions in St Paul, and hopefully start construction this time next year.

1. VEEDA Update—continuing to work on appraisal on property by Lundgren's, site ready for whatever development happens on the property, on Hwy 53.

Bernie Collins updated on the Chamber, looking forward to next year, they will have a conference room now available for use.

Joe Guertin is working with credit union on the parking lot needs, next to his business. He has talked with Northshore Enterprise, they would like to set up in Virginia, and he will set up a meeting with them and try to get something promoted here. Working on getting the elevator installed in his building and still interested in wanting to discuss clean up on the building downtown. No dumpster has shown up yet.

John Tourville talked about a technology center that may be a possibility for the downtown area,

Small shopping experience was good, lots of people out shopping. Seemed to do well, this was the 2nd year and still in the learning process.

Jim Tieberg thanked Rob Marwick for service on the board

Move by Marwick, supported by Baranzelli to adjourn at 9:00 a.m.

VI. Information & Other – FYI

VII. Adjournment to next meeting-January 7th, 2016

