

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MINUTES December 8, 2009

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority was held at Cottage Grove City Hall, 7516 80th St. S., Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016 on the 8th day of December 2009.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by EDA President Bailey.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Myron Bailey, EDA President
Tony Jurgens, EDA Member
Justin Olsen, EDA Vice President
Paul Poncin, EDA Secretary/Treasurer
Chris Reese, EDA Member
Richard Remackel, EDA Member

Members Absent: Craig Patterson, EDA Member

Staff Present: Howard Blin, Community Development Director
Jennifer Levitt, City Engineer
Robin Roland, Finance Director
Ryan Schroeder, EDA Executive Director
Ken Smith, Communications Coordinator
Jesse Swenson, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present: Bruce Anderson, Golf Manager
Sue O'Connell, Assistant Golf Manager/Food and Beverage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by EDA Secretary/Treasurer Poncin to approve the November 10, 2009 Economic Development Authority minutes. Seconded by EDA Member Remackel, all present in favor.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE / BR&E UPDATE / BUSINESS LEADS

EDA Executive Director Schroeder gave the EDA a development update. 63 new home building permits have been issued thus far in 2009, which is on schedule. Total permit value through November 2009 is \$40.6 million. Staff is working with PHM on a development agreement amendment, which will be brought to the EDA in January. The Home Depot auction is occurring this week and the minimum bid is \$2.15 million. Staff met this week with Target, who has submitted plans for interior remodeling at its existing store, which will also include a small amount of exterior changes. Staff is preparing RFP's for the Cottage View and Langdon sites and those RFP's will go in front of the EDA at the January meeting. EDA Executive Director also shared the business leads that have occurred over the past month. Many of the contacts came from the ICSC conference that was attended. Staff has also recently met with a few potential retailers, which may or may not move forward in the coming year.

TH 61 MEDIAN CLOSURES

City Engineer, Jennifer Levitt, presented materials on MnDOT's plan for the re-paving of TH 61 from just south of 70th Street to US 10. This is considered a "bubble project" that may or may not move forward (project would be awarded in January 2010). The project includes a concrete overlay, 3 median closures, and 3 right turn lanes added south of Hwy 19. Staff and Council have made the recommendation to MnDOT that there only be 2 median closures. There would be no additional lanes added to TH 61.

The project, if awarded, would begin in April 2010 with an end date of October 2010. This project should be completed before the Hastings Bridge construction begins. Staff will be working with MnDOT to schedule a public meeting with area businesses for late February to provide information on how the construction will affect their business.

RIVER OAKS GOLF COURSE 2009 UPDATE

Bruce Anderson, Golf Manager at River Oaks provided a year-in-review on the golf course. Rounds overall for 2009 were up, which was in part due to more high school tournaments (and an additional high school tournament has been set for 2010's season). In October there were only 11 playable days, which hurt the number of overall rounds for the year, but 2009 was still up over 2008. Banquets for 2009 were down from previous years; however staff has been working with East Ridge High School to schedule more banquets. In total, it is believed that the golf course did approximately \$70,000 better than 2008.

2010 could be a difficult year because of the TH 61 closures. However, staff will be meeting this month to identify new and existing programs to expand on for 2010. Staff will also continue to strive to grow the game and get new people golfing. Staff has also been approved to start a beautification process in 2010, and will most likely start by updating the restrooms in the club house.

EDA Member Jurgens asked if staff would add a few carts to the fleet each year since the carts are paid off. Golf Manager Anderson stated that the course would be moving to electric carts and those should all be purchased at the same time. EDA Member Jurgens followed-up by stating that the new sign for River Oaks should include some verbiage about being owned by the City of Cottage Grove.

EDA Vice President Olsen asked if staff was using Facebook, Twitter, etc and to what extent. Golf Manager Anderson replied that staff has been using those types of social networking sites, but it has been a work in progress and is at the top of staff's list of things to work on for 2010.

EDA President Bailey recommended that the incentive program be expanded to all City employees, which was seconded by EDA Vice President Olsen. They both also suggested that staff research discounted pricing for employees.

RIVER OAKS COUPON

EDA members reviewed a draft of a River Oaks Golf Course coupon to use in the upcoming season. Members suggested that the card be as thick as a credit card and also possibly include a bar code for tracking purposes.

RESIDENTIAL LOT INVENTORY

Community Development Director Blin provided the EDA with an overview of residential lots available throughout the City. As of November there are 203 available lots and units and of those 100 finished lots available for single family home construction.

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MARKET GROWTH

Economic Development Coordinator Swenson provided the EDA with an update on the Industrial Park and Gateway area market growth. The current City Council and EDA have established various initiatives for the coming year to expand the industrial and retail markets.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

Economic Development Coordinator Swenson asked the EDA to approve a quit claim deed for parcel (PID 21.027.21.31.0002) that would be moved from the EDA to the City. This piece of land is a storm pond off of TradeHome shoes and will remain tax exempt. A motion was made by EDA Vice President Olsen to approve the quit claim deed, seconded by EDA Member Reese, all present in favor.

HOLIDAY BANNERS

Staff prepared a comparison of costs for holiday banners and holiday decorations to hang during the holiday season on street lights in the retail areas of town. This would be a 2011

budget expense that could possibly be partially funded by the EDA and business community. More details will be provided at the January EDA meeting.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Staff provided the report for information.

RED ROCK CORRIDOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Staff provided the report for information.

MAY 2010 ICSC RECON EVENT

Staff has registered for the May 2010 RECON event in Las Vegas, NV. EDA President Bailey, EDA Executive Director Schroeder, and Community Development Director Blin will be attending. There will be more discussion on whether or not the EDA purchases a booth for the event at upcoming EDA meetings.

CALENDAR

The EDA members were reminded of upcoming meetings and events.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

EDA Executive Director Schroeder informed the EDA that the 3M Business Recognition Breakfast has been scheduled for March 16, 2010 and asked if we should invite the Hastings Chamber members this year and whether or not we should have the mayor's from each of the cities do a 3-5 minute speech to the audience. Both ideas were confirmed by the EDA.

ADJOURN

EDA Secretary/Treasurer Poncin moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by EDA Member Remackel, all present in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jesse Swenson
Economic Development Coordinator