



**DRAFT**

**THE MEETING OF THE EDA BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M.,  
AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M., by Victoria Hallin. Members present were Sharon Sandberg, Charles Snustead, Carrie Petersen, Genny Reynolds, Thom Walker, and Nicolas Taylor. Staff present were Michele McPherson (Administrator) and Mary Lou DeWitt (Comm. Dev. Zoning Specialist).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18, 2021**

PETERSEN MOVED, SECOND BY TAYLOR, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2021. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

**BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Petersen asked McPherson if she has an update on the Initiative Foundation funds.

McPherson said she has a meeting setup with them next Tuesday on the funds.

**REPORTS:**

McPherson said she is waiting for news on the Federal EDA Grant. She does have a draft purchase agreement on one of the Princeton Business Park lots. They received four applications for the Community Development Manager position and will be interviewing two of the people next week. Two of them were local to the area.

**FORUM FOR IDEAS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. EDA Strategic Plan Process**

Faith Goenner (Goenner Consulting) was present at the meeting.

Goenner had a slide presentation. She said there are seven main themes: Tourism, Manufacturing and Industrial, Retail, Restaurants and Service Industries, Transportation, Housing, Age Friendly, and Private and Public Sector Relations. The EDA Board had a homework assignment to go over tonight. The last meeting the MN Extension spoke to the EDA Board.

Petersen did not like how they spoke of the senior citizens. She did not like the idea of pushing them out of their home.

Taylor said it is age friendly and have transitional support systems for more housing.

Goenner asked the EDA Board of what roll do you want the extension to play in this. Maybe

with the survey. The commuters that come to work at Princeton should not be left out.

Taylor suggested not having them lead the public part, but have them update the data. It would be Bennet who would review the data. Gather information and make it useful.

Sunstead said there should be funding for a family to move to the area. He has gone to St. Cloud for workshops in the early morning maybe talk to them coming here and getting them to stay.

Petersen said the property taxes are so high.

Snustead said Mille Lacs County taxes have really gone up. He asked Reynolds if the taxes can be cut down.

Reynolds said they have someone who is finding funds that should have been reimbursed and he found \$800,000 that will be refunded to the county.

Goenner asked where the community listening session should be held.

Reynolds said there will not be that many people attending so the place does not have to be that large. The Depot holds 120.

Goenner said the data we collect should be with a positive vision.

Hallin said the survey should be what you like about Princeton, not what you want to see.

Snustead said a few years ago was a survey and see what the results were from that.

Petersen suggested that surveys could also be emailed in since so many people have computers.

Taylor said at the Chamber Job Fair a board could be put up for those attending could leave suggestions.

Goenner said January 19, 2022 is the Career Day at the mall and might be a good time to start the survey. They are bringing in high school students and encouraging parents to attend.

McPherson suggested using Facebook and utility billing as other areas to have the survey.

Taylor said him and his wife run the Princeton Bulletin Board and they could put the survey on there.

Goenner will check with the Chamber for the Job Fair and see if she could get a table or maybe

a bulletin board. The time will be from 2 PM – 5 PM on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Petersen said have the survey at local businesses in their cafeteria sites. On the survey a question could be, why do you want to live in Princeton and what is your favorite thing about Princeton. Five questions at the most.

McPherson said a two-part question, favorite part of Princeton and then other, if you are a resident, commuter, or want to live in Princeton. What is the most important of the seven items.

Snustead said healthcare system is good here.

Petersen said her neighbor said Princeton has in town grocery store and medical. It is also close to larger areas like St. Cloud.

McPherson said the same three questions could be an ad with a check list in the shopper and clip it and drop it off at the Chamber or City Hall. She also suggested having table tents with a QR code at local restaurants. If this ties in with live here, work here campaign she will find the funds.

Taylor said the hospital also.

Goenner said the survey should have; favorite part of Princeton, are you a resident, visitor, commuter, and which of the seven themes of the strategic plan are most important. Have it as a check list. Other has to be added with an open box.

Hallin said the senior dining site would be a good spot also.

Goenner suggested in March a in person meeting.

The EDA Board agreed to have less personal contact and have the survey's where they can be emailed.

Goenner said the MN Extension would provide more feedback on the surveys and what he would suggest on capturing the pulse of Princeton.

Hallin likes the phrase "Pulse of Princeton".

McPherson asked if we want demographic data like their age, and if they are male or female.

Eda Board likes the age on there.

Goenner said her and McPherson will email something out to the EDA Board. They will get

something put together with a QR code and a poster or booth. There will be a category with the age. The survey will have three questions; favorite part of Princeton, resident or commuter, category for age, seven themes, and a comment box.

TAYLOR MOVED, SECOND BY PETERSEN, TO HAVE A JANUARY 20, 2022 EDA MEETING AT 6 P.M. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Consider Downtown Façade Improvement Grant Request from Kendra & Kyle Ortgiesen**  
Ken and Kendra Ortgiesen, applied for the Downtown Façade Improvement Grant Program for a canvas awning at 501 First Street. Kendra Ortgiesen will be opening a hair salon and the current canvas is weathered and they have a quote from G & J Awning and Canvas, Inc. for \$1,450. This grant allows up to \$2,500, but not exceed 50% total of the project cost.

PETERSEN MOVED, SECOND BY REYNOLDS, TO APPROVE THE DOWNTOWN FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR \$725. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

SNUSTEAD MOVED, SECOND BY TAYLOR, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:23 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Victoria Hallin, President

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Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Zoning Specialist