



DRAFT

**THE MEETING OF THE EDA BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M., by Carrie Petersen. Members present at City Hall were Thom Walker, Genny Reynolds, Charles Snustead, and Sharon Sandberg. Staff present were Stacy Marquardt (Comm. Dev. Planner) and Mary Lou DeWitt (Comm. Dev. Zoning Specialist).

Absent were Victoria Hallin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2022

WALKER MOVED, SECOND BY SNUSTEAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2022. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND COMMUNICAITONS: None

REPORTS:

A. Budget Worksheet – Year to Date and Proposed 2023

The EDA Board had no comments.

FORUM FOR IDEAS:

Reynolds said East Central MN has booklets for transportation that is very helpful for residents in the area. It is a free handout.

Marquardt will contact them and see if she can get more.

Sandberg said there is a senior linkage available that is helpful for seniors and they used that information for her Mom when she went to Sterling Pointe.

Marquardt will pass that to the Age Friendly Group. That will be helpful information to seniors. There are a couple resources for people in the community.

Sandberg said “The Tree of Hope” is an organization that was started more than 30 years ago. It is for hospitalized children in need of a smile over the holiday season. They do give toys throughout the year also to more than 40 hospitals, shelters, and charities in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. An aviation group helps collect the toys and will be taken to the St. Cloud Regional Airport on December 3rd.

Sandberg also handed out a flyer she had gotten when visiting the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls and they have some historical events that she wanted to share. The flyer she had handed out shows Christmas tours of two mansions in Little Falls. Maybe Princeton could do some type

of historical event.

Marquardt said she will show the Depot the flyer and see if they are interested in historical events. Marquardt said the Princeton Area Chamber has started a new website for tourism. The City has started a new tourism tax that will be on the hotel and the camp grounds payment. It is "Heads On Beds", where the funds can only be used for items that bring people to the city. The Chamber gets 90% of the \$3 charge.

Reynolds asked if that would also include Air R & B's.

Marquardt said those are not included in the state statute.

Reynolds said the Rum River Hotel will let people that are homeless to stay up to two weeks in their hotel. Are they included in this.

Marquardt said if they have an extended stay over 30 days are not charged. She will look into that. She believes nonprofit is not exempt.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Economic Development Strategic Plan

Marquardt said she has organized the information from the EDA Board's October meeting and put all the information in it.

Petersen said she went through it and the terminology was removed the EDA Board requested and it looks good.

Marquardt said she went through all the comments from the Land Use Plan and Strategic Plan.

Petersen said in Objective 3 under Task 2 there is a blank in visiting businesses a number of times a year.

Marquardt said she kept that blank to see what the EDA Board would like for the number of yearly business visits.

Walker said we have not put a number of business visits a year in the past.

Reynolds suggested maybe a percentage a year.

Walker asked what the pool of businesses would be visited. Those that may expand or what.

Marquardt said it could be about retaining businesses.



Walker said try to visit manufactures, maybe not retail. Retail can always be visited more often even while shopping. The employment pub needs more focus.

Reynolds suggested 33% of business visits per year.

Marquardt said 33% is a lot of visits.

Snustead said several years ago the EDA Board visited businesses and it was a lot about incubator business startup.

Marquardt said that was the Business Retention and Expansion. Some businesses felt it was intrusive and did not want to share some information.

Walker suggested sending out an invitation survey and say we would like to come out and visit and see what you are doing.

Reynolds suggested the business could come to the EDA Board meeting and present what they do.

Petersen likes the invitation sent out.

Walker said it could help get an effective response from the businesses.

Marquardt will get examples of invites and bring those to the next EDA Board meeting. We do have a possible company that may be coming in to purchase the old hanger lots and they were talking about an incubator type of businesses. They are working with the State right now on possibilities.

Reynolds said there is nothing about childcare in this Strategic Plan.

Marquardt said there is a disconnect on what people want to pay and what the company charges.

Reynolds would like a little about childcare in the Strategic Plan would be nice.

Petersen said it is the cost that is the problem on what daycares charge.

Marquardt said parents cannot afford to pay daycare. That could be in the conversation with businesses on if they find daycare provisions is an issue with hiring and if they have any ideas to help the solution. Maybe there is funding for businesses to have daycare in their organization.

Walker said lobbyist could push for help for companies to have daycare incentives for childcare.

Marquardt said she could put together a directory that could help a business with programs available. Like childcare and such. She will look into that more.

Walker said why not keep it simple and keep it as a questioner on a visit.

Petersen said not to add daycare as a task, just put it in a questionnaire when visiting the company and ask if daycare is a problem they are seeing on keeping employees because of the cost or lack of daycare facilities.

Sandberg suggested two visits a calendar year as a total group. It should be businesses and nonprofit organizations so we can understand more about them.

Reynolds said two businesses a year is a low number.

Petersen said we have applied for this board and should do more than that.

Sandberg suggested an invite for pizza night with daycares or retail businesses.

Marquardt said it should be the EDA Board involved in the business visits. She would like to see a number of yearly visits, not an average. She likes the invite sent out.

Walker said the Chamber has been really good at reaching out to businesses and maybe she could give a list of businesses.

Reynolds said the EDA Board does not get invites to new businesses that are opening.

Marquardt will work with Kim at the Chamber on invites to new business ribbon cutting. She commented that it would be nice if someone from the EDA Board were on the Chamber Board or at least be present at their monthly meetings. She could invite Kim to the EDA Board meeting and see what would work best.

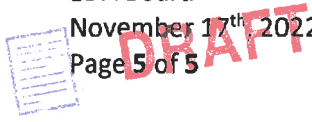
Petersen said she does not want a number for yearly visits put in the Strategic Plan.

Marquardt said then we do not have accountability without a number.

Walker said to continue the open dialog with the businesses.

Petersen said an open line of communication with the businesses in the community.

Marquardt will put open communication with local businesses and local organizations.



Petersen said on Objective 4 maybe go every ten years for a Housing Study.

Walker said we do not need another Housing Study. Save the money for something else.

Reynolds agreed.

Marquardt will remove Task 1 of Objective 4. She will make these changes to the Strategic Plan. She asked if we want to keep the December EDA Board meeting. Only the Strategic Plan would be on the agenda. Would they want to wait until the February, 2023 meeting.

Petersen said she would like to finalize the Strategic Plan at the EDA meeting in December.

Marquardt would like to know if the EDA Board would like to keep the time of the meeting at 5:30 P.M. from now on.

The EDA Board agreed that would be fine.

Marquardt will bring the change in the EDA Bylaws to the December 15, 2022 meeting along with the samples of questionnaires, and samples of invites to send to businesses.

NEW BUSINESS: None

WALKER MOVED, SECOND BY SNUSTEAD, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:56 P.M.

ATTEST:

Carrie Petersen, President

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Zoning Specialist