

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

September 22, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by President Etzler at 5:07 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at the Staples City Hall Council Chambers with two attendees participating via zoom. Present were President Etzler and Commissioners Rice-zoom, Johnson, Bendson, Tappe-zoom and Case. With Commissioners Gertken marked as absent. Also present were Executive Director Melissa Radermacher, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen, Todd County Development Corporation, Rick Utech -zoom, CLC, Dave Endicott and Staples World, Mark Anderson.

Minutes of the August 28, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Bendson and seconded by Case to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote was taken, Bendson-yes, Case-yes, Johnson-yes, Tappe-yes, Rice-yes, Etzler-yes. None voted no. Carried.

Radermacher shared an update on the Cares Act Non-profit grants through the City of Staples. Grant applications were reviewed on September 18th, there were 5 applications with 4 of them eligible. There was a total of \$16,800 approved in funding with an additional \$3,200 left. Radermacher will be reaching out to other organizations to submit additional applications for the remaining funds.

Radermacher and Utech shared an update on the Todd County Cares Act grant program for small businesses. Todd County approved 27 applications totaling \$129,299 in the first grant cycle. Eight of these grants went to Staples businesses for a total of \$40,000. Todd County is doing a second grant cycle with applications due on October 16th for grants up to \$10,000 for small businesses and non-profits.

Radermacher shared an update on the Wadena County Cares Act grant program. There was approx. 25 grants approved totaling approx. \$125k. None of these went to Staples proper businesses however the golf course did receive funding. Wadena County is doing a second application cycle for businesses and non-profits up to \$10,000.

Radermacher shared an update on the 2020 Paint the Town program. The two homes have been painted, there will not be a celebration this year due to covid-19.

The Welcoming Communities group continues to meet, there have been two projects identified on how to make systemic change in regards to how the community is welcoming to newcomers. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 23rd.

Radermacher shared an update on the Chamber/LEAP/Discover Staples planning and collaboration. The groups have been meeting to determine the best use of resources including non-duplication of services, employees and how to strengthen the Chamber.

Radermacher shared an update of the Batcher Block bonding project. The board is meeting two times a month one longer meeting and shorter check-in meeting. The board is working through its Bylaws and will be hiring a consultant to assist with the capital campaign. Grants are being written to pay for the consultant's time.

Nelsen gave an update on the community center. Endicott gave an update on CLC activities, enrollment stayed the same at the Staples campus and they are adding a culinary program at the Staples location.

There was lots of discussion around downtown re-development and housing development. It was decided to have a work session around strategies to attract businesses and families to the community at the October SEDA meeting.

A motion by Case, seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote was taken, Bendson-yes, Case-yes, Johnson-yes, Tappe-yes, Rice-yes, Etzler-yes. None voted no. Carried.

Melissa Radermacher, Secretary