

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

January 28, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by President Etzler at 5:04 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at the Staples Police Department. Present were President Etzler and Commissioners Benson, Rice, Yoder and Case. With Commissioners Johnson and Tappe marked as absent. Also present were Executive Director Melissa Radermacher, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen, Central Lakes College Dean, Adam Hayashi and Staples World, Mark Anderson.

Minutes of the November 26, 2019 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Case and seconded by Benson to approve the minutes as presented. Etzler, Benson, Rice, Yoder and Case voted yes. None voted no. Carried.

The annual budget and quarterly financials were reviewed.

The City of Staples has been selected to host the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference in conjunction with the UofM Extension. A motion was made by Yoder, seconded by Case to recommend approval of the memorandum of understanding to host the conference. Etzler, Benson, Rice, Yoder and Case voted yes. None voted no. Carried

Radermacher shared information regarding becoming a Telecommuter Forward Community through the State. A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Benson to recommend the City to apply to become recognized as Telecommuter Forward Community. Etzler, Benson, Rice, Yoder and Case voted yes. None voted no. Carried.

Radermacher shared an update of the Batcher Building project. The BBOH made the Governor's proposal for bonding. The Economic Impact Analysis complete and shows that construction should generate 21.8M while the operations are anticipated to generate 1.7M Annually through tourism. The article from the Star Tribune came out on January 5th on the front page of the Sunday paper. Radermacher is working through creation of the Non-profit, including board creation, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Next steps include starting the Capital Fundraising Campaign. Radermacher will be meeting with Louis Crombie, Pete Stauber's staff, to discuss Federal funding options.

Radermacher shared an update on the Child Care project. We will be holding another community meeting on February 13th, 3-5pm at Sourcewell. The RCCIP program for Wadena County held a Town Hall meeting on January 27th, there was a good turnout and some unique ideas that were generated from this meeting.

Radermacher shared an update on the Welcoming Communities project. The first meeting was held on January 6th, we reviewed the assessment to identify where we stand as a group as far as being a welcoming community Radermacher will share electronically by request.

Radermacher shared an update on the Shovel Ready application. The process is nearly complete, just waiting on the Threatened and Endangered Species (DNR and FWS) report and we should be ready to complete the certification.

The board reviewed the results from the planning session for the Staples BRE plans. Due to time constraints, the board will look continue work at a later date.

Radermacher shared additional activities including discussions the retail board position vacancy, Tourism Marketing and conferences she has attended including the EDAM Conference and CVN meeting.

A motion by Case, seconded by Yoder to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Melissa Radermacher, Secretary