



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
03.12.24**

Absent: Dallas Fisher
Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Kyle Peterson called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance, Marie Rivers, Marlys Dunne, Jermey Dresel, Jason Houle, and Nancy Hoffman from the County EDA/HRA was present.

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman via Zoom.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: March 12, 2024.

President Peterson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Dunne seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: February 13, 2024.

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 13th minutes. Rivers made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITIONS

5a. City Council Liaison Report

There was no council meeting in February.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Hoffman has been working with three different childcare centers that are interested in moving to the Chisago County area. One of them is looking at the North Branch mall location. She is working on the housing study and more information will be available soon. The city of Lindstrom EDA is working on a BRE program, (Business Retention and Expansion). The plan is to construct a fast version and hit as many businesses as possible. They are planning on a two-month program.

Dunne mentioned that the County EDA/HRA did not have a quorum for last month's meeting and the main item on the agenda was the King Kind project.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the monthly financial report. Dunne commented that the \$22k approved out of Fund 51 last month has not been deducted from the balance.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2024 Goals & Updates

1. Highway 8 Project

Dunne has received an email from Senator Stauber that an additional \$5 million in funding for the project has been awarded. No update on the bat issue.

2. Land Development Activity

The Kichisaga Industrial Development preliminary plat went to the planning commission on March 7th. They approved it and now it will go to the city council meeting on the 26th. If it is approved there then the final plat will be worked on.

There is a letter of intent to purchase from LEI Packing on the second lot. Peterson asked of LEI is planning on vacating their existing building or expanding. Pechman stated he is intending to keep the existing building and the new building will house new machines so it will be an expansion.

Randy Herreid from Kendal Howard attended the last planning commission meeting and has expressed interest in the other portion of the land, the 6-acre section.

3. Fund 51 Update

8b. Resolution 240101-Forgivable Loan Fund Application

Last meeting there were a lot of questions and concerns. Dunne has done some extensive research on the cannabis business. It is coming to the County hard and fast, and they will be responsible for a lot of retail regulations. She mentioned that there is a public hearing on the 20th of March at the county level discussing banning the use in all County owned public spaces.

Dunne visited the OCM, Office of Cannabis Management with King Kind yesterday. She has had dozens of conversations with the public, and wanted to make sure the community is ready to accept this business. She has come to realize and learn from her conversations that social readiness is far better

than what she anticipated. Dunne spoke about a county meeting with Senator Ann Neu, and the support she showed for the business, the revenue it will generate, and treated it as any other manufacturing opportunity.

Dunne gave the commission some updated information from the OCM meeting that she attended. There was talk about legislation and what is known for sure. There have been some changes to the bill, and they have softened some of the rules. The licenses could be issued on a lottery basis. Dunne discussed the information she received with King Kind, and they are still moving forward with their project and are not afraid of making this investment and are confident in getting a license.

Dunne did ask about odor control, and received all the information regarding regulating the odor, between the chemicals used on the plants and the filtration and ventilation systems that are required in buildings. They are taking all precautions to make sure the odor is under control.

Dunne has an opportunity to tour a cultivation site in Inver Grove Heights, she is hoping to get there within the next couple of weeks. Other commissioners are also interested in attending the tour.

Peterson spoke about the concerns he has heard about, which is the odor, and proximity to the school. Houle was confused about King Kind wanting to be a part of the community, and community outreach yet they aren't going to be advertising the business. Dunne did ask them about that.

Dunne wanted a guarantee from King Kind that there would be no odor coming from the building, she is looking forward to visiting the other site to experience it firsthand.

Pechman is working on the grant application and looking forward to getting that submitted. He would like to take the tour with Dunne to also see firsthand the building and surroundings.

Peterson wanted to table this for another month since the county did not have their meeting. Hoffman said that King Kind has a top-notch business plan and is quick to respond to any information and is very easy to work with. She said the county is still in the process of working with them and it will be on the agenda next month, so she sees no reason not to table it until the county meets again.

Houle asked if this is a type of business the county should be giving the forgivable loan to and is there a business in the area that needs this loan more. He is looking at the financial side.

Commissioner Rivers made a motion to table the Forgivable Loan Fund Application to the April monthly EDA meeting; Commissioner Houle Seconded; all ayes; the motion passed.

9. NEW BUSINES

10. ADJOURN

Commissioner Rivers made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant