

CITY OF ANOKA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2023

Call to Order: Acting Chairperson Smith called the EDC meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North in the City of Anoka.

Oath of Office: Mr. Borglund administered the Oath of Office to new member Michelle [REDACTED].

Roll Call: EDC Members present were: Mike Allen, Ephantus Mwangi, Curt Rekstad, Dave Sanasac, Michelle [REDACTED], and Julie Smith. EDC members absent were: Brian Beaudoin, Matthew Finn, and Jeff Lee. Staff present: Community Development Director Doug Borglund

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Borglund noted that he could watch the video to verify the motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER REKSTAD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SANASAC, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2023 EDC MEETING, WITH MR. BORGLUND TO ADD THE MOTION/SECOND TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rum River Dredging EDC Resolution Presented to City Council/Jeff Lee: Mr. Borglund reported that Commissioner Lee attended the City Council meeting to present the EDC resolution in support of dredging the Rum River channel. He stated that the City Council accepted the resolution and appreciated the support of the EDC.

Rum River Dredging Effort Update: Mr. Borglund reviewed the steps that would be necessary including plans, funding, and permitting.

Business Survey Planning Update: Mr. Borglund stated that because of his other duties he has not yet had time to work on this item. He noted that he still plans to be able to get the survey out this fall.

Amtrak Whistle-Stop Effort at the NorthStar Station Update: Mr. Borglund provided brief background on the discussion the previous month. He acknowledged the stop that has been approved for Coon Rapids in the last legislative session and noted that he continues to work with Representative Stephenson on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Social District Ordinance/Planning Update: Mr. Borglund provided an update on the timeline to implement the social district which will begin its pilot month during September 6th through October 7th. He commented that the intent would be to run the social district during the entire season next year and the City would then report back to the legislature. He stated that the social district will run seven days per week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. within the identified boundaries. He noted that the signage this year will be temporary and permanent signage will be installed for next year. He stated that there is a website that will provide all the information and QR codes will be placed on signage that would bring people to the website.

Hotel Market Study Sample: Mr. Borglund commented that after the last EDC meeting, he looked into the topic further and provided an example of a market study completed by Monticello in 2012. He asked whether that is the type of information desired. He commented that this type of analysis would provide details on what type of hotel product could work in this area and whether a hotel could be successful. He stated that if the EDC is interested, he could then look into the cost for that type of study.

Commissioner **Michelle** commented that it would seem to make sense to determine the cost now, in the case that funds need to be budgeted for 2024.

It was the consensus of the group that Mr. Borglund should pursue moving forward to determine a potential cost.

2023 Goals Mid-Year Review: Mr. Borglund provided a mid-year recap of the progress towards the EDC goals for 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Marketing and Communications Updates:

- Discover Anoka: No comments.
- Chamber of Commerce: No comments.
- ABLA: Mr. Borglund provided an update on the ABLA meeting the previous week. He stated that many cities are passing ordinances related to public use of cannabis and noted that Anoka County has passed an ordinance. He stated that the City is moving towards a policy related to prohibition of cannabis use within the parks which would be similar to tobacco use. He advised that the City Council will continue to discuss the topic of cannabis.

Subcommittee Updates: None.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Discuss September Meeting Agenda: Mr. Borglund commented that he will provide a development update and they will attempt to finalize details for the business survey. He

stated that he will also attempt to bring back information related to a hotel market study and could request the City Engineer to provide an update on the Rum River and Highway 10 progress.

Staff Update: Mr. Borglund provided a brief development update.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner Rekstad, a second by Commissioner Sanasac, and a unanimous vote of those present at 9:04 a.m.

Amanda Staple, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*