

**CITY OF GREENFIELD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
MAY 3, 2016**

The Economic Development Authority of the City of Greenfield, Minnesota, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at 6390 Town Hall Drive.

1. Call Meeting to order

President Brad Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members present: President Brad Johnson, Tom Cook, Mike Erickson, Mike Hoekstra, and Mark Holten.

Others present: City Administrator Bonnie Ritter

3. Approve agenda

MOTION by Holten, seconded by Hoekstra to approve the agenda as amended by adding Item 6A, Destination/Development Options. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Election of officers

MOTION by Cook, seconded by Erickson to have the same slate of officers for 2016 as served in 2015, as noted below. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

President – Brad Johnson

Vice President – Mark Holten

Treasurer – Tom Cook

Secretary – Bonnie Ritter

Executive Director – Mike Erickson

Asst. Treasurer – Mike Hoekstra

5. Approval of minutes

MOTION by Cook, seconded by Holten to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion on entrance signage

Discussion centered around pictures of a number of cities' entrance signage and it was the general preference to use stone pillars with the signage between for the large signs at the east and west Highway 55 entrances, and smaller versions proposed for other entrances to the City. Staff will do further research on the type of signage preferred.

6A. City as a destination/Development options

Holten stated that he would like to start a conversation as to what it would take to make Greenfield a destination city, to do something that would bring non-residents to Greenfield. If this isn't done, we will remain a bedroom community. He would like to see the City move in a direction similar to the way Delano has developed.

Cook stated that is one of the ideas behind strategic planning. Do we want to make this a destination City. Delano is a destination and the river is a big part of that. The original idea for Greenfield was to have it centered around the river. This could possible still happen and ideas can be gathered to look into that.

Hoekstra commented that a thriving downtown is key, like in Annandale and Delano, and we don't have an old downtown.

Johnson stated that development has been on our minds, but that is nobody's expertise so hiring a consultant may be the answer to help with that.

Holten stated it starts with consultants and would probably be the least part of the whole plan. Community discussion also has to happen. Cook would like to sit down and brainstorm ways to do this and thinks community involvement is huge, and this also plays into the update of the Comp Plan. He thinks community involvement should happen before a consultant is hired because this may be a path that nobody wants to go down. This process can be discussed at another EDA meeting.

Erickson stated that citizens can be asked to get involved in brainstorming, but thinks people won't be impressed with this process. We had some access to the river but lost it. We're laid out like a township with no downtown to speak of, and thinks the Bleck property and the property just to the south across Hwy.55 is the key to ever having a downtown, and that's what we should be starting to think about. We know where we'll develop and we need to talk about what we want to have there.

Hoekstra stated Maple Grove as an example of a city that didn't have a downtown and made one with the Arbor Lakes development.

Johnson stated we need to plan and agrees with citizen input and thinks we'll need a consultant to proceed with this.

An EDA meeting was set for June 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers.

7. Adjourn

MOTION by Holten, seconded by Hoekstra to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. All voted in favor. Motion carried.



Attest: Secretary Bonnie Ritter



President Brad Johnson