

**THE MEETING OF THE EDA BOARD HELD ON APRIL 18, 2019, AT 6:00 P.M.,
AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting was called to order by Victoria Hallin. Members present were Sharon Sandberg, Charles Snustead, Jenny Gerold, Genny Reynolds, and Brad Schumacher. Staff present Robert Barbian (Administrator), Stephanie Hillsheim (Comm. Dev. Specialist), and Mary Lou DeWitt (Comm. Dev. Assistant).

Absent was Thom Walker.

Jenny Gerold will be replacing Jules Zimmer as City Council Representative for the EDA Board. The next EDA Board meeting Gerold will take her Oath of Office.

AGENDA ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 21, 2019

REYNOLDS MOVED, SECOND BY SNUSTEAD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2019. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Industry Retention and Recruitment

Hillesheim would like the EDA Board to give suggestions on ways to grow our City. Suggestions on a place to live, work and play. Hillesheim wrote down the EDA's suggestions on an eraser board.

Hallin said we need to have a nitch or identity for the City like in the past we were known as Flower City.

Snustead said we do not have enough housing. We need to challenge contractors to build before they sell.

Reynolds said there is growth by the middle school, but there is more land available to build on.

Schumacher said you need to know your inventory. What is available. There is a five-acre parcel of land that came up for sale. It is on First Street and could be a housing development.

Hallin said work force housing is needed.

Reynolds said we do not have any colleges close so some kind of secondary education.

Snustead said a school that you could earn credits. The Elim Home trains nursing assistants and those are not a credited course.

Schumacher said the 2020 census hub could be here for their training. Bring the workforce here to train. Use City Hall or the Public Safety Building, Library, or Civic Center.

Reynolds said the census came from Duluth and she said they only need ten workers.

Schumacher said the first year ten and then those workers that go to the homes would be a larger number.

Barbian said we are trying to get ideas to figure out what we should be doing as City staff. The training center is a good idea and we should utilize our assets like the places Schumacher mentioned.

Gerold said we need more jobs, more businesses.

Snustead said he has seen a lot of people heading west in the morning for commuting.

Barbian said that is good to know where they are going out of town for work, but what type of work.

Snustead said nursing jobs are west of Princeton in St. Cloud.

Sandberg asked what kind of jobs. There are different skill levels. They have "Build-A-Plane Program" and also a program on how to fly a plane. They are pulling kids from other community areas and are very intelligent.

Schumacher said under jobs we have shovel ready to build on.

Barbian said we are looking at what our infrastructure has. We need to know our full sewer system.

Sandberg said Princeton has a lot to offer. The City needs more connecting sidewalks for residents to enjoy. Princeton is a safe environment instead of the Minneapolis area. What type of businesses do we want to bring in.

Hallin said the areas that are shovel ready are zoned for different type of businesses.

Hillesheim said we can recruit businesses.

Reynolds suggested promoting tourism and camping. We have Rum River that runs through the east side of town and we should be using the river to promote the City.

Hallin suggesting canoeing would be good to promote.

Hillesheim said the City just received a grant and that will be used to promote Riverside Park with three separate events and also having canoe rental.

Barbian said we need a meet and greet worker at the park that will need to be hired. That is one effort we are providing to bring people here. Does the EDA Board have more ideas.

Snustead mentioned that the City of Northfield has Jesse James Day and the town fills with tourist.

Sandberg asked if this grant will connect the sidewalks and paths.

Hillesheim said no, it is just for canoeing.

Barbian said that the other grant is for the trials in the park and will be decided in July where we know if we have received it. Does the EDA Board have other ideas for activities, industry, and commercial.

Sandberg said wine or beer tasting events. Also, under the wing camping would be a great asset for the Airport and the downtown. Pilots fly in and go out to eat.

Hallin said we could use a convention center. The Chamber is having the Chili Fest again, but it will be hosted at the fairgrounds. The Rum River Festival will be all the events in one day.

Hillesheim said the concert in the park will be in June and another in September.

Barbian said what about Industrial ideas. We do not have much for shovel ready lots.

Reynolds suggested the Mille Lacs Depot should have a dining car with actual meals.

Sandberg said what is classified industrial. She spoke of different stuff in our industrial park.

Hillesheim handed out a flyer about business retention and expansion. Her and Barbian are trying to meet with the biggest companies in town to see if what we can help them with and if they are having any issues. That information can be used to grow the Industrial Park.

Schumacher mentioned the Biz-to-Biz Group.

Barbian said we need to go after the goals that we feel will accomplish the most.

Reynolds likes that the City is visiting business owners.

Hillesheim said they have gone on a few visits and it is impressive what the companies are doing and how automotive the companies are.

Barbian mentioned maybe in the future setting up a visit with a business and EDA Board after 5:00 P.M. and have a tour. We want the businesses to know who we are. The EDA Board members can have a useful hand in letting us know if they hear a company in the City is upset over something involving the City or if the business wants to grow. The EDA Board can provide the City with what direction they should follow, a footprint or plan.

B. Update of School District Population Outlook

Ben Barton, School District Superintendent spoke at the Planning Commission meeting on Monday and was interested on how the City and Schools can work together to make this an area that people want to move to.

DeWitt mentioned that Barton presented information of the trend from an analysis that he has done. The School District has visions for the community for quality of life. The students are our future and labor force. What are the qualities of the Princeton schools and the town, do they attract families to want to live here. The Princeton schools serves 3,500 students. The school system here is one of the largest employers of the community. The data showed the birth rates for the last ten years and in Princeton the birth rate has declined 28.6%. There have been more births in the townships than the city. Barton wants to see the enrollment increase for Princeton schools. The future physicality needs in the schools is being addressed now where they know for long range planning what is needed in the upkeep of their school buildings. Barton was very positive with wanting to work with the City and the City Boards to make the City of Princeton a place people want to move to.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A. EDA Balance Sheet

The EDA Board had no comments.

B. Report

Hillesheim said she called Bob Mack, MacDonald & Mack Architects who was awarded the project of the Downtown Design Guidelines, and they are close to having their design completed.

Barbian said that he would like the EDA Board to attend the May 20th Planning Commission meeting where Bob Mack will give a presentation. The Planning Commission decides if their design meets the Ordinance.

Reynolds asked if the City is going to apply for the Small Cities Grant.

Barbian said he is looking into it. If we do receive the grant, he would have Lakes and Pines administer it again.

C. City Council and Planning Commission Minutes for March, 2019

The EDA Board had no comments.

REYNOLDS MOVED, SECOND BY SCHUMACHER, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:51 P.M.

ATTEST:

Victoria Hallin, President

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant