

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Wednesday, August 6 • 2014

PINE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
EDA Office • 106 2nd St SW • Pine Island, MN • 5:00 p.m.



1. **Call to Order:** Rick Keane called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Members Present: Rick Keane, Lennie Broich, Rod Steele

Others Present: Karen Doll

Notes: Due to lack of a quorum at the start of the meeting, Item 7. Director's Report was moved to the top of the agenda.

7. Director's Report

- July Activity - Doll reviewed highlights of recent Pine Island business activity and answered Board Member's questions concerning projects.
- An update concerning the letter send to MnDEED on July 1, 2014 requesting clarification on possible reuse of MIF funds was given.
- A compilation of US Census Information showing median income breakdowns by County and City was reviewed and discussed. Pine Island does not fall within the low to moderate income requirement that would meet that specific federal national objective.
- A summary of the Maxfield Housing Report, completed in May 2014 and funded by Rochester organizations was discussed. Board members expressed the need for Pine Island to work on achieving a balance in future residential construction between affordable housing and high end homes.
- A summary of the new Greater MN Business Expansion Sales Tax Refund Program was reviewed
- An invitation was extended to EDA members to attend the August Community Planning Team meeting at the Olde Pine Theater at 7 pm to hear about Austin MN's Vision 2020 Program.
- Additional handouts in the Board's packet: July 9, 2014 Council Report.

Attendance Record: Board member Mike Kaye arrived at 5:35 p.m.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

** **Motion** to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 2, 2014 made by Rod Steele; second Lennie Broich. Passed 4-0-0

3. Financial Report:

- The Financial Report was tabled because it is not available at this time.
- 2015 Budget – Doll has been working on the 2015 Budget and will meet with Budget Committee members in the next few weeks.

4. Revolving Loan Report:

- The Loan Report was tabled because it is not available at this time.
- Kennedy and Graven suggested revisions to the revised Micro Loan Fund Guidelines upon preparing documents for the loan approved last month. The recommendations were reviewed, and the Board concurred with incorporating K&G's revisions into the official guidelines.

5. University of MN CURA Program:

- The Board received application information about the CURA Program (U of M's Community Based Research Program). City officials of Pine Island and Oronoco have expressed interest in applying for this program to obtain a graduate student for an applied research project to study the needs and possibilities for waste water treatment for the area. Information from this research would allow both communities to gain a broader understanding of the area's wastewater management needs, which would help with the development of each community's appropriate concept for waste water treatment. Doll requested Board authorization to work on this grant application.

** **Motion** to authorize the EDA Director to submit a grant application to the CURA Program made by Lennie Broich; second Rod Steele. Passed 4-0-0.

6. Collective Advertising/Promotion Program:

- The Pine Island Chamber of Commerce has asked the EDA to share in the financial risk to make a 3-month commitment to advertise in the Rochester Area Visitor publication. The Chamber director will attempt to sell 6-8 ads (at \$50 per month to Chamber members, \$65 per month to non members) to cover the majority of the advertising costs. The Chamber is asking the EDA to participate in a back-up plan and equally share the financial risk of covering the cost for unsold advertising space. One ad space for 3 months has already been spoken for. Worst case scenario to the EDA, if no additional ads are sold, would be a total cost of \$750 over the 3-month period.

** **Motion** to participate in the Chamber's advertising campaign in the Rochester Area Visitor made by Lennie Broich; second Rod Steele. Passed 4-0-0.

8. Old Business

- **Frontage Road / Round-about Project** – Steele gave the Board an update on construction of the Frontage Road and round-about. Things are going well and still on track to be completed within the 60 working-day schedule.
- **Proposed Solar Farm** – It is the position of Bob Vose (City Attorney) that Aurora will be required to comply with City Zoning Ordinances. A letter will be submitted to the PUC addressing the City's concerns. Aurora maintains that the project does require compliance with City Code because of the size of the Solar Farm.
- **125th Street** – Olmsted County has not responded to City officials since the last meeting when they agreed to further research details surrounding the potential to finance the west segment of 125th Street to the new school with a USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Program.
- **Zip Rail Update** – Doll presented information to the Board about the public meeting held in Kenyon on July 31st where strong opposition to the project from Goodhue County residents and public figures was voiced. She is assisting with drafting comments on behalf of the City to the Tier 1 EIS review process.

9. New Business

- **SMIF/DMC Community Planning Meetings** – The second DMC & Regional Communities meeting occurred on July 18th. The Communities and DMC representatives are currently working on the development of a vision statement and plans for a Region-Wide Input Meeting.
- **Commercial Signage** - The cost of electronic signage at an entrance to Pine Island ranges from \$20,000 - \$50,000. It would require a computer, internet, and a wireless sender-receiver within 1,000 feet and a direct line of sight.

10. Meeting Adjourned – 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Karen Doll, EDA Executive Director