

Wabasso EDA
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 1, 2021
5:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 5pm with Board Member Pat Eichten, Jeff Olson, Chuck Robasse and Steve Burns in attendance. Member Karl Guetter was absent. Also present were EDA Director Larry Thompson, Pat Dingels and Paul Sobocinski.

The minutes of the August 4, 2021 Regular meeting and August 18, 2021 were approved on a motion by Robasse, second by Olson.

Eichten – Yes; Olson – Yes; Robasse - yes; Burns – yes.

Duplex – General discussion. It was noted that the plans and specs would be completed in November. Mr. Olson would review the spec sheet submitted by RBC and recommend finishes to the architect. Mr. Thompson would begin the financing process.

5-Plex Landscaping – Mr. Thompson gave an update on the 5-plex landscaping noting that just rock and fabric would be installed this fall and shrubs would possibly be installed next spring.

Eastvail Real Estate Signs – The EDA reviewed the sign proposal and approved with minor modifications.

Vacant Land. The board directed the Director to investigate the possibility of dedicating the EDA lot at the intersection of North Street and CR #6 as city park land.

MIF RLF Program. The board considered a Mn Department of Revenue Minnesota Investment Revolving Loan Fund program that would allow the EDA to return 20% of funds on hand and in exchange the EDA/City could use the remaining funds for any lawful public expenditure. Current funds on hand was \$106,555. The funds in the RLF I account would not be eligible as they were funded with federal dollars. It was the consensus of the board that it was interested in the program and directed Mr. Thompson to verify the source of funding in each RLF account and the differences between state and federal MIF RLF programs.

Strategic Plan. Discussion regarding the proposed action plan submitted by consultant Cheryl Glaeser. The action plan was divided into three sections:

1. Revitalizing the commercial club
2. Retaining and expanding existing business
3. Business opportunities along the Highway 68 corridor.

Mr. Thompson said he would take the lead on the Commercial Club and outline a more detailed action plan for the Highway 68 corridor, which would include working with the City Engineer. Ms. Dingels would review a questionnaire that was previously developed for surveying existing businesses. The board was also interested in a community wide survey, but would like the City Council to take the lead

on that process. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Olson also presented an update on the Community Center improvements. It was suggested the city seek input from wedding planners, seminar presenters, etc. regarding the improvements. Mr. Thompson indicated the strategic plan would be discussed at the next Council meeting along with the EDA comments.

Motion by Olson, second by Burns to accept the Treasurers report.

Eichten – Yes; Olson – Yes; Robasse - yes; Burns – yes.

Motion by Olson, second by Robasse to approve the bills totaling \$18,736.38 (Dewey Street) and \$339.15 (General).

Eichten – Yes; Olson – Yes; Robasse - yes; Burns – yes.

Motion by Olson, second by Burns to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Eichten – Yes; Olson – Yes; Robasse - yes; Burns – yes.

Larry Thompson
EDA Director