

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MARCH 15, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Jurchen, Commissioners Lubke, Rieck, and Stroot

Members Absent: Commissioners Lindholm and Roggenkamp

Others Present: Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist; Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Bob Perkins, TDS

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jurchen at 8:07 a.m.

2. Approve EDC Minutes

**COMMISSIONER STROOT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RIECK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

3. Applications Received for EDC Vacancy

Dawn Bittner informed the EDC that one application had been received from Amy Sjoblad, Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union, to fill the vacancy. Bob Perkins asked if there were any residence requirements and was informed there were none. He will see if there is any interest from TDS employees.

Chair Jurchen noted that if no other applications are received the EDC recommends Amy Sjoblad be appointed to represent financial institutions.

4. Broadband Update

Mr. Perkins stated that TDS has a lot of infrastructure within the City of Pequot Lakes. Fiber is in Jenkins. Businesses are not utilizing what is in place as there is an increased cost for businesses to use it. There may be a need to educate businesses that are within those areas. Subscribership is very low; 98% of customers do not use 100 MG.

When asked if Wi Fi could be added to Trailside Park, Mr. Perkins stated it would be easy and inexpensive; the City would just need the right equipment. The key is to have adequate coverage. To obtain a proposal from TDS the City should contact Bobbie Jo.

Mr. Perkins further stated that fiber needs to be shared by multiple homes or businesses. Fiber is the lead technology and the limitation for fiber has not been found.

Chair Jurchen asked what should be the EDC high priorities to impact growth and jobs. Mr. Perkins advised to chase proven technologies, concentrate on the core infrastructure, good power and good capacity. Don't chase technology that is not proven or widely used. It is important to build core infrastructure that tentacles can be adapted from. Mr. Perkins further stated that it is important to attend meetings like this and understand what is going on and to get the word out to the right folks. The core exists and we need to educate the users to tie into the core. The TDS marketing and product folks may need to know what the needs of this community are.

Commissioner Rieck asked what the possibility would be of the City having business suites that could be rented out to people who are operating businesses out of their homes that would have access to high speed internet, sewer and water. Sheila Haverkamp stated these are historically called incubators with different levels of services. BLAEDC is doing that with their CTC Room. The challenge is hard to make them work financially unless you subsidize them. Coffee shops are doing this now.

Chair Jurchen stated Mr. Perkins has a standing invitation to attend our EDC meetings. He will let us know when he is available and be placed on the Agenda. He will be available to attend the April meeting. He could discuss how to move the message on how to use what is in the ground.

5. Sibley Lake Water Quality Update

Chair Jurchen stated that water quality is important for people having second homes. The Sibley Lake Association and many agencies are involved to improve the water quality of Sibley Lake. There is nonpoint phosphorus found in the lake from the watershed. This issues is being addressed.

6. Pequot Lakes Downtown Plan

No discussion.

7. Vision Statement for City

No discussion.

8. School Update

No update.

9. Chamber Update

No update.

10. BLAEDC Update

Sheila Haverkamp informed the group that BLAEDC is sponsoring a Hack Fest which is a day or two day event that brings in techies along with other groups and create teams to solve an issue, a problem or an opportunity. They are looking for ideas from communities for an issue to solve. The event takes place May 7.

11. Other Business

Chair Jurchen asked if the Pequot Lakes advertisement had been placed in the Breezy Point magazine. Dawn Bittner stated the ad was placed in the magazine.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn Bittner  
Zoning Specialist