

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MAY 17, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Jurchen, Commissioners Lindholm, Rieck, Sjoblad, and Lubke (arrived at 8:07 a.m.)

Members Absent: Commissioners Roggenkamp and Stroot

Others Present: Jenna Crawford, Pequot Lakes Chamber; Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Bob Perkins, TDS; Nancy Malecha, City Administrator/Clerk; Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jurchen at 8:01 a.m. Chair Jurchen congratulated Amy Sjoblad on her recent appointment to the Economic Development Commission.

2. Approve EDC Minutes

**COMMISSIONER RIECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 15, 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. CHAIR JURCHEN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

3. Broadband Update – Wi-Fi in City Park

Chair Jurchen informed the Commission that Cascade Computers and TDS quoted two access points for Trailside Park to provide Wi-Fi services with a cost range of \$1,200-\$1,300. He noted that Council approval to move forward with this project would be needed as the EDC budget does not include these expenditures.

Bob Perkins noted that Wi-Fi services should be kept off of the City's network with local support from ethernet and/or wireless radios.

(Commissioner Lubke arrived at the meeting.)

Jenna Crawford stated that during the Nisswa fishing opener, CTC provided expandable Wi-Fi service for that event and it was awesome.

Bob Perkins noted that Wi-Fi could be enabled in every building if the City is trying to meet the needs of 2,000 people during large events and further infrastructure would be needed. The Commission discussed the idea of having contingency plans in place that could be utilized for larger events with sponsorship from tech companies.

Chair Jurchen will notify Cascade Computers regarding updated equipment quotes to cover a larger magnitude of people.

Sheila Haverkamp informed the Commission on the Hack Fest event that BLAEDC hosted and the umbrella of technology and facets that are being brought to the forefront. She further noted that BLAEDC is working on hiring a talent recruiter which will coincide with their membership program by offering different benefits based on membership level.

Bob Perkins suggested that an incentive to the membership program could be the utilization of the Hack Fest event.

4. Sibley Lake Water Quality and Park Grant

Chair Jurchen updated the Commission on the Sibley Lake Water Quality Project and grant received in the amount of \$22,000 to remove the steps and vegetation rehabilitation at Sibley Lake Park.

5. Thriving Communities Initiative

Chair Jurchen moved this item to the end of the agenda.

6. School Update

Commissioner Lindholm noted that the Pequot Lakes School is gearing up for graduation and the budget process. He further noted that the School will expand parking, with an additional 70-90 parking spaces, by removing the former fitness building and re-purposing the former Community Education building for maintenance.

7. Chamber Update

Jenna Crawford stated that she has received no comments from the business community on the Highway 371 Expansion Project. She updated the Commission on the Chamber's summer social media campaign, "Find the Bobber", and the Survive and Thrive During Construction Meeting at the Pequot Lakes High School Gathering Room on Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.

Amy Sjoblad noted that Chamber membership has been steady and the Chamber hired Brian Lehman to actively promote membership.

8. BLAEDC Update

Sheila Haverkamp informed the Commission on the video conferencing capabilities that are now available at the BLAEDC offices due to a Blandin Foundation grant. Commissioner Lindholm inquired if these grants are still available as this could assist with the Trailside Park Tech Ready Project. Ms. Haverkamp will check into this and forward the information to Nancy Malecha for the next City Council agenda.

Ms. Haverkamp noted that the Commission needs to look at the possibilities of the turnback land by the City's spray irrigation field to market economic growth.

9. City of Jenkins Update

Commissioner Lubke noted that the City of Jenkins has been working with MnDOT and negotiated a frontage road from the A-Pine Restaurant north to where the four lane highway ends. The City is also working on revising their planning and zoning ordinances to remain current and creating a brand for their community.

5. Thriving Communities Initiative

Chair Jurchen informed the Commission about the Thriving Communities Initiative to assess the needs of the community. Core teams involving a total of 25-35 people will be assembled to help our community identify our unique assets, challenges, and goals. This process will endure for approximately 90-120 days.

Commissioner Lindholm stated that this type of planning is priceless and the School is willing to put dollars on the table to fund this Initiative.

Chair Jurchen requested that the assembly of core teams for this Initiative be placed on the next EDC agenda with an invitation to Dan Frank.

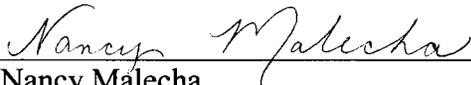
10. Other Business

No further business.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Nancy Malecha  
City Administrator/Clerk