

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 17, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Jurchen, Commissioners Rieck and Stroot

Members Absent: Commissioners Merritt and Roggenkamp

Others Present: David Sjoblad, Mayor; Nancy Malecha, City Administrator/Clerk; Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist; Chris Lindholm, Pequot Lakes School Superintendent; Sheila Haverkamp and Julie Ingelman, BLAEDC; Sheri Davich, Charter Spectrum; John Babinski and Bob Erickson, Babinski Properties.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jurchen at 8:00 a.m.

2. Approve EDC Minutes

COMMISSIONER STROOT MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 20, 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RIECK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Chair Jurchen switched agenda items 3 and 4.

3. Broadband Update from Charter Spectrum

Sheri Davich from Charter Spectrum introduced herself to the Commission. She noted that she works with the communities of Pequot Lakes, Nisswa, Pine River, Crosby, Deerwood, and Aitkin. Charter currently offers internet and TV services to the Pequot Lakes area and hopes to provide telephone service in the future. Ms. Davich further stated that she will be talking with businesses in the existing Pequot Lakes Business Park on the best services to meet their needs.

Chair Jurchen inquired if a map could be provided from Charter on the availability of services in the area to be used as marketing and informational pieces for future development. Ms. Davich will provide this information to the Commission.

Mayor Sjoblad questioned if Charter could provide service to the MnDOT turnback land south of the existing Pequot Lakes Business Park. Ms. Davich noted that Charter will bear the cost, up to \$5,000, to bring service to a business with no contract commitment.

Commissioner Stroot inquired about the internet speed that Charter offers. Ms. Davich stated that 60 MB and 100 MB internet speeds are available and this is a per connection speed for

businesses with no sharing of bandwidth. She further stated that Charter has no plans to put additional fiber in the area, but this could change as needed.

Commissioner Stroot inquired why Charter does not offer telephone service via the internet. Ms. Davich noted that this can be done via voice internet protocol and Charter does offer this service.

4. John Babinski – Projects and Vision

Sheila Haverkamp updated the Commission on the history she had in collaborating with Don Babinski on various economic projects throughout the years.

John Babinski from Babinski Properties informed the Commission on the current projects his company is working on. These include the completion of the 40 housing units named Babinski Cottages in Pequot Lakes and the 30,000 square foot animal shelter on County Road 29. He further noted that their 247 buildings along Highway 371 are for personal use. Mr. Babinski stated that in the future they are considering construction of townhomes and office buildings in Pequot Lakes.

Chair Jurchen stated that a common office building concept might be a good use for their 247 buildings.

Mayor Sjoblad noted that he would like a destination hotel erected in Pequot Lakes along the County Road 11 corridor and that there is a market for this due to the various sporting events in the area. Mr. Babinski stated that his grandfather did not like the hassle of the turnaround time in the hotel business.

Chair Jurchen questioned if there was anything the City could do to partner with Babinski Properties. Mr. Babinski explained that their modular home factory has 26 units already built but they are unable to get approval from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry to become a manufacturer. He noted that this manufacturing status could create 20-40 jobs. He would like to get this facility operating and find the right market for the modular homes.

Mr. Babinski stated that next year he and his grandmother would like to re-do Sibley Lake Park for the City and upgrade the apartment buildings in this area.

Mr. Babinski questioned the Commission on what the City wants as possibilities from his business. Mayor Sjoblad stated that there is a need for single family homes. Mr. Babinski noted that if Babinski Properties built homes again they would like to do 20-40 housing unit developments at a time.

Mr. Babinski noted that he would be interested in partnership opportunities with the City and he feels that regional economic development meetings with Jenkins and Nisswa would be a good idea.

5. Land Turnback by Pequot Lakes Business Park

Sheila Haverkamp reviewed BLAEDC's Industrial Park Analysis report with the Commission. She commended the City of Pequot Lakes for their decline in property tax rates.

Mayor Sjoblad stated that the City Council needs to provide more direction to the Commission for the MnDOT land turnback south of the existing Pequot Lakes Business Park. He noted that this will be placed on the Special City Council Meeting agenda in January.

6. Joint Meetings with EDC and Planning Commission

No discussion took place.

7. School Update

Chris Lindholm informed the Commission that the School Board approved moving forward with the One-to-One Technology Initiative. This Initiative will be rolled out this spring for a three year cycle.

Commissioner Stroot questioned if a map of the Pequot Lakes School District could be provided to overlay with Charter and TDS' service areas. Mr. Lindholm will provide this map.

8. Chamber Update

No update.

9. BLAEDC Update

No further update.

10. Other Business

Chair Jurchen noted that he attended a meeting with House Speaker Kurt Daudt that focused on small businesses.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Malecha". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Nancy Malecha
City Administrator/Clerk