

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 19, 2013  
MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Jurchen, Barb Merritt, Cindy Rieck, and Bill Stroot

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cindy Roggenkamp

ALSO PRESENT: Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Mayor Nancy Adams; Dawn Bittner, Zoning Administrator; and Chris Lindholm, School Superintendent

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Approval EDC Minutes

**COMMISSIONER MERRITT MOVED TO APPROVE THE 10/15/2013 EDC MINUTES. COMMISSIONER STROOT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

3. Chris Lindholm, School Superintendent

Chris Lindholm provided an update to the EDC. The School is working with fire and police to familiarize them with the new facility. The School Board is in the process of a strategic planning process. The plan is to review the core values as an organization with the most valuable core values being money and time.

Discussion was held regarding college and tech training available to students. It is offered but the school has a small number of kids and a six hour school day which makes it very difficult for them to access the classes. The schedule is an enormous barrier even though it is the most cost effective one and may not be the most efficient one to prepare students for after high school.

4. Technology Discussion

5. Resilient Region Project

6. Workforce/Education

Chair Jurchen explained that the EDC is currently addressing the issues of livability, communication infrastructure, education system and qualified workforce in the community. Mark Jurchen discussed the Resilient Region Project which is specifically addressing the struggle with sufficient bandwidth. The project will encompass an assessment of broadband services in the area. Bill Stroot informed the EDC that he worked for TDS and CTC for many years. He

explained that TDS is finishing their broadband project to serve the rural community which includes fiber and ADSL (high speed over copper). High speed internet is available in the City but people must understand that there is an associated cost with speed. Mark Jurchen suggested that the EDC encourage TDS to intensify their marketing efforts.

Chris Lindholm explained that there is a digital divide. People get what they pay for in high speed internet but the students that need it the most don't get the connectivity resource.

Sheila Haverkamp explained that BLAEDC is working on a branding effort to identify the area as being tech savvy. There is a technology service sector in our area. Northern Tool, TDS, Hunt Technologies are some companies that need technology capacity to deliver their product or service throughout the world. She explained that the training component of the technology field is important.

7. Snow Removal on City Streets and Sidewalks

Mark Jurchen stated that there is an issue with people not shoveling the sidewalks in the downtown area; especially on property that is vacant. He noted that this needs to address as it is affecting the retail businesses. Barb Merritt noted that businesses abutting County Road 11 take three to four days to remove snow. Sheila Haverkamp explained that the City of Brainerd assesses the businesses for snow removal. Mark Jurchen explained that this is an economic issue and that business is lost in the community due to the condition of the sidewalks in the winter. The EDC suggested contracting to have the snow removed and possibly charging the businesses.

8. BLAEDC Update

Sheila Haverkamp gave an update on the economy in the Brainerd Lakes area. She stated that the paper mill is not moving forward, bigger companies are doing well, and smaller businesses are struggling. She explained that office space is replacing retail buildings.

Mayor Adams stated that a plastic surgeon has shown some interest in moving to Pequot Lakes but they need a place to rent. Mark Jurchen stated he would do some research on this.

Sheila Haverkamp suggested having a representative from Essentia Health at an upcoming EDC Meeting.

9. Chamber Update

Jenna Crawford stated that the Brainerd Lakes Chamber is hosting the fishing opener at Grandview. They are attempting to tie Pequot Lakes, Breezy Point, and Nisswa into this event. The Chamber is also working on Ice Fest which is coming soon. Lisa Paxton will be resigning from her position in about two weeks. Santa's Bobbin into Town is scheduled for Dec.14.

10. December Agenda Items

Mark Jurchen suggested having the December EDC meeting on site at the school. He also suggested another meeting with Bob Perkins from TDS.

December agenda items:

- Meet at the School at 8 a.m. – Tour school and update from Chris Lindholm
- Update on Resilient Region Program
- Technology/Work force Discussion
- Turnback Commission Report. (Mayor and Mark Jurchen to report)

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, CHAIR JURCHEN  
AJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:17 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandy Peine  
City Clerk