

**CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – June 22, 2023  
Saint Peter Room – Saint Peter Community Center**

The meeting of the Saint Peter Economic Development Authority (EDA) was called to order at approximately 12:00 pm by President Julie Frederickson. Roll call was taken with Frederickson, Bob Southworth, Keri Johnson, Ayan Omar, Cory Abels and Brad DeVos in attendance. There is one vacant seat on the board. City staff present was Community Development Director Ben Baker. Visitor present was Ryan Vesey of the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA).

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Abels, seconded by Southworth to approve the agenda as presented. With all voting in favor, the motion was carried and the agenda was approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by DeVos to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2023 meeting of the EDA as presented. All in favor of the motion, the minutes were approved.

**Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) and Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) Presentation – Jessica Beyer (President & CEO) and Ryan Vesey (Economic Development & Research Manager)**

Ryan Vesey provided a general overview of the function of Greater Mankato Growth (GMG). He stated that their mission is to support and promote economic growth and vitality of their members and the regional market place.

He indicated that REDA partners with the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) and provide assistance with Business Retention & Expansion, New and Emerging Business Development, Advocacy of the Market Place, Main Street Economic Revitalization Program and Resident Recruitment.

Vesey stated that to be a part of GMG, cities and counties pay an annual fee that is based on per capita. He said that in 2023, the City of Saint Peter paid \$26,425 as part of the Partnership Contribution.

Vesey indicated that the funding contributes to regional economic development services for the overall regional marketplace, including cities and counties as specifically outlined in the Joint Services Agreement.

Vesey said that GMG received a \$1.9 M grant secured from the Minnesota Department of Economic Development and Employment (DEED) to grant out 30% matching grants for construction projects. He said that all of downtown Saint Peter was included in the target area. Vesey indicated that \$422,000, in projects in downtown Saint Peter, have been approved by the State of Minnesota. He stated that the projects ranged from code improvements, to façade restorations, to complete building renovations.

**2023 ADA Accessibility Improvement Grant Program Awards**

Baker reviewed the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) grant program and said that funding in the amount of \$55,000 was approved by the City Council for the 2023 program. He indicated that

those funds were generated by the interest from the Revolving Loan Funds, which fluctuates annually.

Baker said that 18 applications, totaling \$227,000, were submitted and reviewed by the Application Review Committee. The Committee was comprised of the EDA President and Vice-President, the Planning & Zoning Chairperson, the Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson, a handicapped resident of St. Peter, and the Community Development Department.

Baker stated that 7 of the 18 submittals were chosen to receive grants based on; the current business traffic, use, users, existing accessibility improvements/equipment already on site and project cost. Baker stated that the total cost of the 7 projects was \$61,588. Baker indicated that 1 business declined a \$13,200 grant and indicated that they may apply for funds in the future. The balance of grants 6 grants to be awarded totals \$53,228.

Discussion was held in regards to funding an additional project since one participant declined. Members felt that it was more advantageous to carry the funds over to 2024.

A motion was made by Southworth, seconded by Johnson to introduce RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03 entitled, "RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES/BUSINESSES". All members voting aye, the Resolution was passed and adopted.

## **Reports**

**Capitol Loft Apartments** – Baker stated that construction has started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the apartment building. He also added that the Park Department and Park Board is in the planning stages for the park.

**Rising Sun Chiropractic** – Baker reported that construction has begun on the Rising Sun Chiropractic addition.

**361<sup>st</sup> Avenue** – Baker said that the 361st Avenue improvements are underway.

**Windsor Pond** – Baker reported that Mike Volk has started road and grading construction on the last phase of Windsor Pond Subdivision, which includes 10 lots.

**101 South Minnesota Avenue** – Baker stated that windows have been installed at 101 South Minnesota Avenue (fire damaged property).

**RFP Old Fire Station** – Baker indicated that 8 RFP's were received for the old fire station. He stated that the City Council has narrowed the submittals down to 3, which include 2 breweries and an Islamic Center.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business before the EDA, a motion was made by Southworth, seconded by Omar to adjourn. All members voting aye, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:06 pm.