

Martin County Economic Development Authority
June 2, 2008, 5:00pm
Commissioner's Board Room

Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by President Sukalski. Those present were: Pierce, Grupe, and Boler. Absent Clark, Schmidtke, and Kotewa. Also present were Bryan Stading, RCEF Director and Scott Higgins, County Coordinator.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Boler to approve the agenda. Carried unanimously

Motion by Boler, seconded by Pierce to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2008 and May 5, 2008 Board minutes. Carried unanimously.

Roni Dauer, CER reviewed the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's Town Meeting Initiative (TMI) "Citizen Centered Community Building Team" grant opportunity. Dauer stated that the grant is for \$15,000. A collaborative has been formed between the City of Fairmont and Fairmont School District and this is an opportunity to evaluate community assets and engage our senior citizens into the area workforce. Dauer stated that there will be an informational meeting held on June 17, 2008 at the Southern Minnesota Education Campus.

Sukalski stated that this could be an opportunity for the EDA could "piggy back" with TMI program. Dauer informed the Board that there is an informational meeting scheduled on June 17, 2008, 9:30am-4:00pm at the Southern Minnesota Education Campus in Fairmont and invited Board members to attend. No further action taken.

Sukalski thanked Dauer for her presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Higgins reviewed the itinerary for the upcoming Strategic Planning Session to be held on June 16th at the Holiday in Fairmont. Higgins stated that there will be four presenters and that Bryan Stading will be facilitating the planning portion of the meeting.

Discussion ensued on involvement of other EDA groups. Boler stated the need to communicate with other EDA type entities including the towns throughout the county.

No action taken on the appointment of citizens to EDA subcommittees. It was determined to discuss the committee structure further during the upcoming strategic planning session.

IGNITE

Stading stated that between RCEF and IGNITE he has been working with 90 clients. Stading stated that at the current time he is working with two of the clients who are getting close to their business plans coming to fruition. Stading reminded the Board that opening up a business does not happen overnight- it takes time to develop business plans, get the financing lined up, facilities, equipment, staff, etc. Overall, the IGNITE program is doing what it was set up to do.

Stading further stated that not all business consults result in success and sometimes you assist a client and may not hear from that person for weeks. It was suggested that it may be worth it to

send a reminder of some sort (i.e. post card) to those who do not respond back and follow up on the status of their project.

Stading gave a brief update on the required reporting due July 1, 2008 for the program, stating it has been somewhat difficult to determine the type of outcomes DEED is looking for, however, it is coming together.

NEW BUSINESS

Higgins presented the CY2009 departmental budget request packets to the Board. The budget packets are due June 16th to the County Coordinator's office. The Secretary/Treasurer Pierce along with the President Sukalski will sit down to help put together the initial request for Board review during the next monthly meeting.

Higgins informed the Board that the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation is providing a grant opportunity in the amount of \$25,000 for those who attended the "Growing Bio" conference held on May 21-22, 2008. One of the main criteria for the grant is the establishment of collaborative projects and planning that grow Biobusiness in the region. The grant requires a dollar for dollars match, in which \$12,500 could be in-kind match. There was discussion on contacting local businesses that would help foster Biobusiness. Higgins further stated that Linda Meschke, with Rural Advantage would be willing to partner with the EDA with this grant opportunity. .

Higgins gave a brief update on potential support staff for the EDA stating that the EDA was not eligible for the volunteer program due to its governmental nature. Higgins stated the need to have further discussions with Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) regarding their volunteer program.

FINANCIAL

No bills for payment for the month of June 2008.

Higgins reviewed the information pertaining to the economic development legislative summary. Higgins also reported that he and Bryan Stading would be speaking on June 24th to the Uptown Kiwanis group in Fairmont and inquired of any of the Board members to attend, Boler indicated that he may be able to attend.

It was determined that the next regular meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

With no further business to wit, motion by Grupe, seconded by Boler to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Lawrence Sukalski, MCEDA Chair

ATTEST: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer