

**Cook County-Grand Marais Economic Development Authority**  
**April 9, 2019 – Grand Marais City Hall**

**Present:** Board members Anton Moody, Heidi Doo-Kirk, Carol Mork, Bev Green

**Others present:** Director Mary Somnis; Small Business Development Center Representative Pat Campanaro; Chamber Director Jim Boyd; County Administrator Jeff Cadwell, Paul Goettl, Mike Larson, Rhonda Silence

**Absent:** Scott Harrison, Howard Hedstrom, Hal Greenwood

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Moody at 4:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no Public Comment.

**Agenda & Minutes**

*Motion to adopt agenda by Doo-Kirk, second by Mork. Motion carried, all ayes.*

*Motion by Doo-Kirk, second by Green to approve the March 12, 2019 minutes. Motion carried, all ayes.*

**Note:** A correction was noted for the February 12 minutes, which listed Heidi Doo-Kirk as present. She was absent from that meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Short term vacation rentals**

Mike Larsen of Cascade Vacation Rentals reminded the EDA board that the county planning commission was holding a public hearing the next day, Wednesday, April 10 on a proposed ordinance to govern vacation rentals in the county. Larsen said he wasn't asking the EDA to take any particular stance on the ordinance, but said he felt it is something the EDA should be aware of. The EDA board asked for his thoughts on the ordinance. Larsen said it seems that discussion around the vacation rentals, or short-term rentals, has been negative. He said Land Commissioner Tim Nelson said "a number of comments" had been received, but those comments had not been shared. Nelson states that the ordinance could mitigate possible adverse impacts. Larsen said he would like to know what those adverse impacts could be. He also said there is reference to the need for insurance for a vacation rental property. He asked who would audit that.

Cadwell said the county board is sharing the draft ordinance to gather public comment. Although the county could adopt the vacation rental ordinance at the meeting, it is not likely.

**Visit Cook County request**

Somnis shared a request from Linda Jurek of Visit Cook County for support for a Minnesota Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau conference being held in Cook County, June 4-5 at Bluefin Bay. VCC is working with MACVB to host the conference, which includes training and social activities, such as a visit to North Shore Winery and a gondola ride for dinner at the Summit Chalet.

VCC asked the EDA to participate at the \$500 level. That would give the EDA one complimentary registration, space for a display table/exhibit, sharing the EDA's message at the podium and recognition on all event promotions. VCC hopes the EDA as well as the Cook

County Chamber would take part to show how the three entities work together to promote Cook County.

*Motion by Mork, second by Doo-Kirk, to sponsor the conference, with the \$500 coming out of the EDA's advertising and marketing budget. Motion carried, all ayes.*

## **FINANCIALS**

### **Superior National at Lutsen**

Goettl distributed financial reports for Superior National for March 2019. He pointed out that the total in checking and savings is up about \$75,000 over March 2018. Goettl also said there is merchandise left that will be sold this year.

### **EDA financials**

The EDA reviewed EDA financial reports for March 2019. The total in checking and savings is less than last year, but Goettl said the EDA should be fine until the levy is available.

The EDA also reviewed checks to be paid for the month.

*Motion by Doo-Kirk, second by Mork to accept the financial reports for Superior National and the EDA for March 2019 and to approve payment of invoices. Motion carried, all ayes.*

## **OLD AND ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **Cook County Workforce Solutions**

Jim Boyd of the Cook County Chamber was at the EDA meeting to answer questions about the hiring of an individual to oversee workforce recruiting. He said the chamber had advertised to fill this new position. No responses have been received yet.

### **Cedar Grove Business Park**

The sale to Nadder Samari of the Cedar Grove Veterinary Clinic is closed. Somnis said she has received another inquiry for a business park lot.

### **Nordic Star - Grand Marais housing**

Somnis said One Roof Housing is looking for a general contractor. The plan is for two more houses at Nordic Star. An open house to look at the available houses will be held in April.

### **Four Directions Dwellings**

Somnis said the first Four Directions Dwellings building in Lutsen is full and the first party is moving into the second building. All of the apartments are spoken for at this time. Building 4 has yet to arrive, so it will be June or July before it is available.

### **Village North Update**

Bruce Block, owner of Village North, continues work on the former Gofer Cabins site. He should have six to eight new units ready by the end of June.

### **Creative Economy Collaborative**

Somnis continues to be the EDA representative for this group. They are working on updates to the CEC Implementation Plan.

### **Small Business Development Center Report**

Campanaro shared a report listing the 2018 statewide SBDC highlights. She said the northeast region leads the nation in the return in SBDC investments.

Campanaro had 93.5 hours in March, with 83 hours in client contacts and 10.5 hours in professional development. The client hours represent 84 contacts with 37 different clients.

Campanaro thanked the EDA for its support of the upcoming “Profit Mastery” class at Cook County Higher Education. She said thanks to CCHE, the Minnesota Center for Economic Development and the EDA, the cost of the workshop, normally \$599, would be just \$99.

Campanaro also presented a workshop for staff at North House Folk School called “Sell More, How planning can make it happen.”

Campanaro said she had done some research on rental property management. She and Somnis will go over the information.

### **EDA Executive Director Report**

Somnis reported that she had attended the Annual Meetings of Lutsen, Tofte and Schroeder townships to report on the 2018 projects of the EDA, as well as meetings of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the North Shore Scenic Drive Committee. Somnis is now a member of the board of the scenic drive committee.

Somnis met with CCHE about marketing to recruit students for the North Shore Culinary School.

She had meetings with some area resorts, Do North Marketing and Heath Ekstrom of Superior National regarding “Stay & Play” and other marketing efforts.

Somnis participated in a meeting at WTIP Community Radio with representatives of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters. WTIP has been awarded funding from the NFCB to create programming.

Discussions with Morrison family ongoing regarding potential public art projects.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next EDA meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 4 p.m. at Grand Marais City Hall.

Moody will be available for the WTIP interview on EDA activities on Wednesday, April 10.

*Meeting adjourned 5:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted by

*Rhonda Silence*

*Minutes & More*