



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2023**  
**Council Worksession Room**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Resignation of EDC Member/ Current Chair and Appoint of New EDC Chair
4. May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Old Business
  - A. Social District (City Council Workshop Discussion Summary from May 22, 2023)
6. New Business
  - A. Business Survey
7. Communications and Reports
  - A. Marketing & Communications
    - Discover Anoka
    - Chamber of Commerce
    - ABLA
  - B. Sub-committee Updates -None
8. Miscellaneous
  - A. Discuss July Meeting Agenda.
  - B. Staff Update
9. Adjournment



# Memo

**To:** Economic Development Commission  
**From:** Doug Borglund, Community Development Director  
**Date:** June 2, 2023  
**Re:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 Agenda

1. **Call to Order.** This meeting will be held in the Council Work Session Room at 8:00 a.m. at Anoka City Hall.
2. **Roll Call.** Staff will record the names of those present at the meeting.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes.** Minutes from the May 11, 2023 Meeting. (Action Required)
4. **Old Business**
  - A. Social District - City Council Work Session Discussion Summary from May 23, 2023 (Discussion)
5. **New Business**
  - A. Business Survey (Discussion/Direction/Potential Action)
6. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. **Marketing & Communications.** Staff and Commissioners will provide an update on the following.
    - Discover Anoka Update
    - Chamber of Commerce
    - ABLA
7. **Miscellaneous.**
  - A. **Discuss July Agenda** – Staff would like to ask if the EDC has any special presentations they would like or information they thought might be useful.
  - B. **Staff Update**
8. **Adjournment.** Let's plan to adjourn no later than 9:00 a.m.

CITY OF ANOKA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 11, 2023

Call to Order: Chairperson Thompson called the EDC meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North in the City of Anoka.

Roll Call: EDC Members present were: Mike Allen, Brian Beaudoin, Mathew Finn, Ephantus Mwangi, Dave Sanasac, Julie Smith, and Logan Thompson. EDC members absent were: Jeff Lee and Curt Rekstad. Staff present: Community Development Director Doug Borglund

Approval of Minutes: MOTION BY COMMISSIONER FINN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMTIH, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2023 EDC MEETING, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Downtown Outdoor Sidewalk Seating: Mr. Borglund stated that the outdoor seating program is running with nine permits already issued. He noted that the City updated its equipment that is then rented by the businesses. He stated that although the program began with different requirements in 2017, it was morphed during COVID and will continue as the businesses and residents enjoy the additional outdoor seating space.

Downtown Social District Discussions: Mr. Borglund stated that with the assistance of Representative Zach Stephenson, a bill was passed that included a provision specifically for the City of Anoka. He provided an update on a recent meeting between some members of City staff, the City Council, and local businesses to discuss the social district concept. He provided additional details on the concept of a social district along with the infrastructure element. He also provided details on the State Law on social districts. He noted that they would begin seasonally, and the social district could grow to include winter events in the future. He confirmed that there would be a licensing fee, yet to be determined by the City Council, for businesses to participate and explained that those fees would be used to assist the City in cleanup and security. He also explained how sales tax can be used to assist in covering costs which would spread those costs among users rather than increasing property taxes. He noted that they are still in the beginning stages of these discussions and the Council will be having additional discussions to determine these details.

Commissioner Finn expressed concern with a situation where someone brings a cup from a previous event and refills it with their own liquor. He also asked if the cups would be reusable or recyclable.

Mr. Borglund noted that those details are still being worked out. He provided additional details on the requirements for the cups through the State Law.

Commissioner Smith stated that people could collect cups and at a certain number they could secure a discount of \$1 or something of that nature.

The Commission discussed the number of cups that would be used under these types of regulations and the logistics of whether a customer should, or should not, be able to enter another establishment with a cup from another business.

Mr. Borglund provided a recap and noted the next steps in establishing the social district and its regulations.

Development Update: Mr. Borglund provided an update on ongoing development project activity and interest.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

##### Marketing and Communications Updates:

- Discover Anoka: Chairperson Thompson stated that Discover Anoka has been discussing their upcoming events, noting the success of the Mother's Day event.
- Chamber of Commerce: Commissioner Beaudoin provided an update on the recent meetings he has attended for the Chamber. He stated that he was invited to make a presentation on behalf of the EDC and summarized the topics he felt would be appropriate.

Chairperson Thompson stated that he agrees with those topics.

Commissioner Beaudoin stated that the Chamber would also be interested in providing a presentation to the EDC in the future as well.

- ABLA: No report.

Subcommittee Updates: None.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Discuss June Meeting Agenda: Chairperson Thompson suggested discussing the business survey questions.

Mr. Borglund stated that they could begin by reviewing the questions used during the last survey.

Staff Update: Mr. Borglund commented that there has been a lot of activity downtown and there are not many vacant storefronts.

Chairperson Thompson commended the Code Enforcement staff for quick response.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner [REDACTED], a second by Commissioner [REDACTED], and a unanimous vote of those present at 9:06 a.m.

Amanda Staple, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*



## Business Call Program - Survey

Anoka's Economic Development Commission (EDC) advises the City Council on matters affecting the City's economy and focuses upon building the local economy by balancing development, expanding tax base, enhancing employment opportunities and growing community income. It strives to retain and expand existing businesses, promote entrepreneurial and workforce development, and market the City as a business and tourism destination.

The vitality of our local economy depends upon a healthy, growing business community. The City of Anoka's EDC has created a brief, 12-question survey to establish a better understanding of the needs of private businesses within Anoka.

Please complete this brief survey to help us learn how to help your business thrive.  
Thank you.

### QUESTIONS

1. Are you hiring and, if so, are you experiencing recruitment challenges? Yes/No; Explain
2. Do you utilize City and county resources to benefit your business? Yes/No, Unaware of them
3. What factors influenced your decision to locate your business in Anoka?  
Explain
4. Do you have immediate issues City staff should address? Yes/No, Explain
5. What type of information would be beneficial to your business?

Business Planning  
Financing/Loans  
HR Laws and Regulations  
Networking and Promotion Resources  
Current City Projects  
Available City and County Resources  
Nothing at this time  
Other (specify)

6. Have you attended City Council and/or Boards & Commissions Meetings? Yes/No, if yes, which?

7. Do you participate in any networking or business groups?

Chamber of Commerce

Rotary

Discover Anoka

Professional Groups

Other (specify)

8. How can Anoka help your business succeed?

9. What type of businesses can help or complement your business?

10. Do you anticipate future expansion; building size, personnel, etc.?

11. Would you like an in-person meeting with a member of Anoka's EDC? Yes/No/Maybe in future

12. Please provide your contact information so we may follow up as needed.

Business Name & Mailing Address

Contact Person

Telephone

Email address

Thank you for taking our survey.