



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Thursday, July 13, 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. June 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Old Business
 - A. Social District Planning
 - B. Business Survey Planning Update and Discussion
6. New Business
 - A. Consider a Resolution Supporting Channel Dredging of the Rum River
 - B. Amtrak Stop Effort at the NorthStar Station
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: July 7, 2023
Re: Thursday, July 13, 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 June 8, 2023 Meeting. (Action Required)
4. **Old Business**
 - A. Social District Update (Discussion)
 - B. Business Survey Planning (Discussion/Direction/Potential Action)
5. **New Business**
 - A. Consider Resolution Regarding Dredging of the Rum River (Discussion/Direction/Potential Action)
 - B. Amtrak Stop Effort at the NorthStar Station (Discussion)
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 August 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
JUNE 8, 2023

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

Resignation of EDC Member/Current Chair and Appointment of New EDC Chair: Commissioner Finn suggested delaying the appointment of a new Chair until there is a quorum of members present.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin agreed.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Finn noted that although he did not see any corrections needed, this should also be delayed to the next meeting when a quorum is present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Social District City Council Workshop Discussion Summary from May 22, 2023: Mr. Borglund stated that staff and the Council are continuing to work out the details for the social district and provided an update. He stated that the goal is to set up a few events for September as a trial in order to navigate in preparation for next year. He stated that staff will also meet with the local businesses to gain their input as they will be partners with the City in this endeavor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Business Survey: Mr. Borglund provided background information on the business visits that were used in the past to gather input from local businesses and how that transitioned to a business survey as a more efficient method to gain input. He noted that there was an option for businesses to request follow-up via an in-person meeting for those that wanted to do so. He noted that within the packet he provided the list of questions that was used on the last survey.

Commissioner Finn stated that he likes the questions as they provide a basic foundation. He suggested limiting the number of questions to ten, or as near to ten as possible.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin asked how the email information was obtained.

Mr. Borglund replied that staff has a business list with contact information and for those that they did not have information on, staff reached out in order to update that list. He acknowledged that some businesses may have been missed as businesses change over time. He commented that the last survey was sent out in 2019. He explained how the information was used to identify themes, gain input from the business community, and/or identify items that need immediate attention (such as a light burned out or pothole). He noted that the information can also be shared with other entities, such as the Chamber of Commerce, if there is something identified by multiple businesses that the entity could assist with.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin commented that he did not believe that any of the questions seem outdated.

Mr. Borglund noted that some of the responses may be different this time as COVID had just begun at the time of the last survey and businesses were operating in a different manner.

Commissioner Smith stated that perhaps the order of the questions could be changed and provided input.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin agreed that the more important questions should be placed in the beginning as people tend to lose interest as they go through a survey.

Mr. Borglund noted that almost every business is experiencing issues with HR in the current market and stated that question could be replaced.

Commissioner Finn stated that perhaps a transportation question could be added, or the concept of a park and ride that would allow people to park outside of the downtown area and still get to the downtown area.

Mr. Borglund noted that there is the Northstar parking ramp that is severely underutilized and perhaps there would be an option to use that ramp for parking and shuttle them to downtown Anoka for events. He noted that the conversation would need to happen with Metro Transit to determine if that would be an option.

Commissioner Smith stated that perhaps people just need to know that they could park there because it is not a very long walk and there is a trail to follow.

Mr. Borglund noted that perhaps the question is more generally related to parking, asking the business if it has concerns related to parking. The Commission agreed. He noted that the next step would be to make the changes to the questions as discussed and then review the business list to ensure it is up to date before setting up the survey via SurveyMonkey.

Commissioner Finn asked if the survey should be released earlier in the season, prior to the events, or later this fall after events have happened.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin stated that while different input may be received after events, he would like to release the survey sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Smith agreed that while the answers may be different in the fall, perhaps business owners would have more time to respond if it were done sooner.

Commissioner Finn stated that perhaps if the questions are available for review at the July meeting, the survey could be released during July.

Mr. Borglund noted that he would need at least a few weeks to ensure the contact list is up to date. He suggested aiming for September 1st for the survey. He noted that way there would have been a few City events and it would still be prior to all the October events. He asked how long the survey should remain open once launched.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin asked how long the survey was left open last time. He noted that most people will respond quickly or not at all.

Commissioner Smith stated that perhaps once the survey is launched there is a reminder after ten days and then the survey is closed ten days after that.

Mr. Borglund estimated that most responses were received in the first week, but there were some responses received the week following.

Commissioner Smith asked if there could be a question or box to check where businesses could simply click that they are happy and did not have any concerns.

Mr. Borglund confirmed that a “no concerns” button could be added. He noted that some businesses did not answer all the questions.

Acting Chairperson Beaudoin noted that if that is the first question, that could cause people to select that and the survey would then not provide the data that is desired.

Commissioner Finn suggested beginning with the question asking if there are any immediate concerns. He suggested adding a question related to whether there would be a desire for additional bicycle parking as that would help to identify if there is a need for more bike racks as well as where those would be wanted.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Marketing and Communications Updates:

- Discover Anoka: No comments.
- Chamber of Commerce: Acting Chairperson Beaudoin stated that the group would like a presentation from the EDC, or himself on behalf of the EDC, related to what the EDC is working on. He also provided a brief update on the topics the group has recently discussed.

Mr. Borglund noted that it would also most likely be of interest for the group to share the results of the business survey once that is completed.

Commissioner Smith noted that perhaps the Chamber would be willing to include the survey information to its businesses as well, reminding the businesses to fill out the survey.

- ABLA: No comments.

Subcommittee Reports: None.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Discuss July Meeting Agenda: Mr. Borglund confirmed the topics that would be carried over to the next meeting from this agenda.

Staff Update: Mr. Borglund provided a brief update on development activity and development interest.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner Finn, a second by Commissioner Beaudoin, and a unanimous vote of those present at 8:54 a.m.

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



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EDC RESOLUTION-2023-01

**RESOLUTION OF ANOKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
RECOMMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEED WITH THE MAINTENANCE
AND DREDGING IMPROVEMENTS ON THE RUM RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources defines navigable water of a public water as a depth of four-feet; and

WHEREAS, based on a biometric survey completed this June of 2023, the majority of the Rum River channel has silted in restricting the water navigation along the Rum River; and

WHEREAS, the current conditions of Rum River channel inhibit Emergency Services access providing a timely response to incidents that may occur on the Rum River or the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Anoka Economic Development Commission recognizes the need and benefits of restoring the existing boating traffic along the Rum River in the area located south of the Anoka Dam; and

WHEREAS, the Anoka Economic Development Commission supports the dredging of the Rum River for the operation of a navigational channel from the confluence of the Mississippi River to the Anoka dam; and

WHEREAS, the Anoka Economic Development Commission recommends to the Anoka City Council to proceed with maintenance work and construction plans to restore the channel south of the Anoka Dam to the Mississippi River promoting Economic and Community Activity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anoka Economic Development Commission does hereby determine, its support and formal recommendation to the Anoka City Council.

Adopted by the Anoka Economic Development Authority this the 13th day of July, 2023.

ATTEST:

Doug Borglund, Staff Liaison/Secretary

EDC Chairperson

DATE: June 15, 2023
TO: Invitees, Attendees
FROM: Anthony Hebert, Director-Commuter Rail

**Meeting of the Northstar Corridor Communities
Via MS Teams Meeting**

Committee Members

Tony Hebert-Chair, MT
Brian Funk, MT
Anj Olsen, MT
John Komarek, MT
Greg Vetter, BNSF
Dave Green, Metro Bus

Lucinda Spanier, City of Big Lake
Michael Kedrowski, Metro Bus
Clark Palmer, City of Anoka
Sean Sullivan, City of Ramsey
Brian Hagen, City of Ramsey
Jessica Barthel, Sherburne County

Doug Borglund, City of Anoka
Matthew Brown, City of CR
Zack Carlton, City of Elk River
Rachel Workin, City of Fridley
Stacy Stromberg, City of Fridley
Mark Schermerhorn, Anoka Co.
Noah Hansen, Anoka Co.

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

In attendance: Tony Hebert, Brian Funk, Anj Olsen, Greg Vetter, Brian Hagen, Dave Green, Doug Borglund, Jessica Barthel, John Komarek, Lucinda Spanier, Mark Schermerhorn, Matt Brown, Michael Kedrowski, Jeremy Spilde, Stacy Stromberg, Rachel Workin.

II. COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Meet once a quarter.
- Next meeting September 6, 2023
- If committee members cannot attend, it is recommended that a delegate is assigned.

III. METRO TRANSIT – COMMUTER RAIL (Tony Hebert, Brian Funk, Anj Olsen)

- Ridership increased to 7000 riders last month.
- On Time Performance is at 96%.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Tony Hebert, Brian Funk

- Two significant changes with regards to Commuter Rail came from the legislative session:
 - ST. CLOUD EXTENSION STUDY:
 - Metro Transit partnering with MnDOT on a new extension study to St. Cloud. Tony and Adam Harrington will be directly involved with this legislative goal.
 - COMMUTER RAIL FUNDING STRUCTURE CHANGE:
 - Beginning in October 2023, a new way of collecting funds will begin. Except for Sherburne County, who is outside of the seven-county metro area, the remaining counties along the corridor (Anoka and Hennepin) will no longer be responsible for funding the line. These two counties will be unobligated from the annual funding agreement.

- Instead, funding will come from the ¾ cent Metro Sales tax increase. Funds from this tax will be used for Light Rail, Commuter Rail and Bus Service within Metro Transit.
- Work begins to evaluate the existing gaps that exist with both long-term and short-term capital maintenance needs and a new strategy will be adopted for reporting back to the legislature. Met Council finance teams are working on these items now.

SERVICE CHANGE UPDATE: (Brian Funk)

- Any service change announcements are anticipated after October 1st. However, meetings continue to take place and changes could occur sooner as we continue to work toward an increase in service including adding special event service. We understand the desire for added service and Metro Transit is working hard to get there and hope to come back to this group with news shortly.

BNSF: (Greg Vetter)

- Burlington Northern can be ready, on short notice, to add an additional morning and afternoon trip with the current crew base, as well as service Vikings or special event trains. However, with industry-wide hiring challenges, more time will be needed to secure crews if additional increased service is added.

NORTHSTAR ADVERTISING UPDATE (Anj Olsen)

- Advertising to begin in key areas of corridor concentrating on Hwy. 10 and Hwy. 101 construction delays. Clear Channel billboards on Hwy. 10 and Interstate 94 to begin in the next week. Promotion: “Traffic is a Drain, Get yourself on the Train.”
- The City of Ramsey has agreed to adding Northstar advertising to their electronic billboard on Hwy. 10.
- Creating a flyer that will be inserted in newsletters.

IV. METRO BUS (Dave Green)

- Ridership numbers: 1038 May; 1098 April; 1165 March.
- Concern with increased service due to low staff and the current budget with no additional funding from the three counties who support the link. Metro Bus is still in reduced service with their regular routes, paying a significant amount of overtime to current staff. The feasibility of accommodating additional commuter rail service with link bus service is unknown. Accommodating extra commuter rail event service would not be acceptable at this time.
- Tony Hebert to contact Dave as soon as increased service plans are in place.

V. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- None

VI. CLOSING

CC: Attendees, Committee Members