

**Minnetonka Economic Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes**

**December 9, 2003  
6:00 P.M.**

**\*\*Gray's Bay Room\*\*  
Minnetonka Community Center, Upper Level**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

EDA President Peter St. Peter called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

EDA Commissioners present: Paula Chatterjee, Dan Duffy, Dave Larson, Bunny Robinson, Peter St. Peter, Ken Tauer, and Al Thomas.

EDA Commissioners absent: Bob Walker.

Staff present: Ron Rankin and Elise Souders.

**3. APPROVE MINUTES**

Larson moved, Tauer seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2003 EDA meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed.

**4. STAFF REPORT**

Souders updated Commissioners on the Minnetonka Boulevard/County Road 101 roadway improvements and upcoming meetings and events.

Rankin reviewed the 2003 Annual Report and asked for feedback on the report. St. Peter said a 2004 goal should be to revisit the Neighborhood Renovation Program and either continue on with the program or end it.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**5. CONTRIBUTION OF \$6,000 TO COMMONBOND FOR RENT PAYMENTS OF EXPANDED ADVANTAGE CENTER AT CROWN RIDGE.**

Souders reviewed the request and the expanded Advantage Center programming. She said staff recommends the EDA recommend approval by City Council of the \$6,000 towards rent payments for 2004.

St. Peter said it was the school district that first offered to provide additional programming, and asked what it would take from CommonBond and the City to make it happen. With the direct access to the parents and kids, he said the School District wanted to offer additional programs on-site. St. Peter also mentioned this program may be able to serve the Ridgebury neighborhood. Rankin said the contribution of \$500 per month is about half of the total monthly rent and CommonBond would be responsible for absorbing the remaining costs.

Duffy clarified the agreement is for two years, and another \$16,000 could be a possibility again next year. He suggested if this is an annual request, CommonBond should look at the church for additional space. St. Peter replied the rents at Oak Knoll and the apartment are similar.

Thomas asked where the funding for this request would come from. Rankin said the funding would be from the Livable Communities Fund, and explained the fund. St. Peter mentioned the 60-day notice period if the city decided to terminate the agreement earlier.

Duffy asked who would be responsible for conducting the quarterly review. Rankin said those who had been involved in the first meetings would be responsible. He also mentioned it might take some time this spring to get the programs going; however, he expects that with the start of the school year next fall there would be more programming.

Thomas said he thought it was a good program to have; however, he questioned how it helped the economic development of the city. St. Peter said by providing these programs it would hopefully help ease the need for support services for these residents now and in the future. Rankin added it supplements the investment the city had already made in affordable housing.

Thomas asked if this was the appropriate funding source. Rankin said the request was to help provide the space for the program and not the programming.

Tauer said the city is responsible for affordable housing. He said right now Crown Ridge has a negative reputation associated with it. He felt that if there is a negative image associated with affordable housing, then it might be more difficult to add more affordable housing in the city.

Thomas asked about the monitoring. St. Peter replied it would be done through the quarterly reports. Thomas asked if the EDA could review the progress, and also compare the building before and after the implementation of the programs through police reports and other sources.

Rankin again mentioned that the \$16,000 total the city is contributing to CommonBond for Crown Ridge is a concern. He said staff had spoken with CommonBond that this cannot be a total each year, and the \$10,000 can possibly be used to supplement both programs.

Duffy said supporting this kind of programming is part of the hidden cost of developing affordable housing. He said the county is not contributing, and CommonBond needs to realize the city does not have an open checkbook and will follow-up to see what is happening.

Larson had a question about Vacation Bible School and if the city was funding part of that. Rankin clarified residents are invited to participate in events at the church if they wish. Larson said he supports the expanded program.

Duffy moved, Larson seconded a motion that the EDA recommend the City Council approve the \$6,000 in rent contribution for expanded services at Crown Ridge. All voted yes. Motion passed.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

Rankin said the next EDA meeting would be Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Tauer moved, Larson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.