

**MINNETONKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 12, 2007
6:00 p.m.**

**Crown Ridge Apartments
11367 Fairfield Road, Minnetonka**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

EDA Vice President Dan Duffy called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL.

EDA Commissioners present: Liz Bayer, Dan Duffy, Bunny Robinson, Peter St. Peter, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, Bob Walker, and Bill Yaeger.

Staff present: Ron Rankin and Elise Durbin.

Others present: Nellie Johnson, Bobbie Kay, Jessie Hendel, and Marilyn Peller-Nelson.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 8, 2007 EDA MEETING.

St. Peter moved, Thomas seconded a motion to approve the May 8, 2007 EDA meeting minutes. All voted yes. Motion passed.

BUSINESS ITEMS

**4. COMMONBOND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CROWN RIDGE
ADVANTAGE CENTER FUNDING.**

CommonBond staff began by providing a tour of the Advantage Center, Room 107, and a three-bedroom apartment at Crown Ridge for EDA Commissioners.

Durbin reviewed the staff report, and updated Commissioners on the most recent activities at Crown Ridge, including the wrap-up of school year programming, summer programming, and adult programming. She said that since the November 2006 EDA meeting, CommonBond has been working on obtaining additional funding and volunteers for Crown Ridge. Durbin said there are two pending requests and the General Mills funding request of \$15,000 was approved; however, school district LCTS funding is no longer available. She said CommonBond has also been working at obtaining additional volunteers. Durbin said because of the increase in occupancy and the effort CommonBond has

made to gain additional funding and volunteers that staff recommends the EDA approve the additional \$2,500 in Crown Ridge Advantage Center funding.

St. Peter asked for clarification on the number of children residing at Crown Ridge. Johnson said earlier in January there were 140 children, but now there are only 134 children despite the number of occupied units increasing.

Thomas said the budget shows a funding gap of \$14,935, and there are two pending requests. He asked if there are other requests besides the two pending. Peller-Nelson said when applying for grants and funding, they looked at foundations headquartered in Minnetonka or that have another Minnetonka connection. She said they are always looking for more opportunities to apply. Peller-Nelson said her position is new and is completely devoted to searching for other funding.

Thomas suggested that because many of the residents at Crown Ridge work outside of Minnetonka, not to limit where applications are made to because even if an employee does not live in that city, they work in it. Peller-Nelson added that they are trying to get businesses involved, and the first step is visibility and education about Crown Ridge.

Thomas said the city is an easy mark, so everyone seems to ask for money, yet the city has many obligations to fulfill. He encouraged CommonBond to go after all types of organizations for funding. Johnson said they have been looking creatively about how to staff, and because of that they have brought in AmeriCorp staff in order to help maximize their resources.

St. Peter asked if CommonBond has looked at the Minnesota Council of Foundations. Johnson replied they have. St. Peter also asked about higher education institutions and internships that students could do. Johnson said CommonBond works with several higher education institutions in distributing interns throughout their communities.

Duffy asked if the General Mills contribution in a one-time only contribution. Johnson said this is the third year that General Mills has made a contribution. She said that when she makes the pitch to General Mills for funding, she uses the city's money as a leveraging tool.

St. Peter asked if CommonBond has spoken with General Mills about getting volunteers from their retiree network. Johnson said one of CommonBond's board members is from General Mills so they are aware of the opportunities. Peller-Nelson added that they have also approached Cargill. Johnson said they have been turned down by Cargill in the past because their focus has always been on the schools. St. Peter suggested that a way to get into Cargill is to note that the LCTS funds are no longer available.

Yaeger asked how many CommonBond board members there are. Johnson replied 36.

St. Peter asked if there has been any problem in fundraising as an organization since Joe Errigo left. Johnson said no, and in fact a legacy fund in honor of Joe has been established. She also added that during the year they need to raise \$2 to \$2.1 million to sustain the current services and programming that they have throughout all of their communities. Johnson said the Grand Gala held June 1 is one of their larger fundraisers with over 800 people attending. She said this year there is a new capital campaign for new construction projects and the start-up of an endowment fund for services.

Walker asked how CommonBond would cover a shortfall if that was to happen. Johnson replied that they would watch their spending even more closely and hope to fill the remaining vacant units in the building. Walker recommended starting a reserve fund. Johnson said they do have an overall reserve fund.

St. Peter suggested educating placement agencies, such as Families Moving Forward, to the number of vacancies in the building. Johnson said the Hopkins-Minnetonka Family Resource Center is now included in the semi-annual meetings with the city, school district, and CommonBond.

St. Peter moved, Walker seconded a motion to approve the additional \$2,500 in funding for the Crown Ridge Advantage Center. All voted yes. Motion passed.

5. STAFF REPORT.

Rankin reviewed the staff report items including Glen Lake, Homes Within Reach, construction update, and upcoming events.

6. OTHER BUSINESS.

The next EDA meeting was announced as a joint study session with the EDA, Planning Commission and Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee on Thursday, July 19 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

7. ADJOURN.

Thomas moved, Walker seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted yes. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.