

**MINNETONKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 16, 2008  
5:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers  
Minnetonka Community Center**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

EDA President Peter St. Peter called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

EDA commissioners present: Peter St. Peter, Dan Duffy, Tony Wagner, Ellen Weishar Cousins, Bill Yaeger

EDA commissioners absent: Bunny Robinson, Brad Wiersum

Staff Present: Julie Wischnack, Elise Durbin, Stephanie Scott-Sims

Others Present: Jesse Hendel, Marilyn Peller Nelson

**3. APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2008 MEETING**

No quorum was present at the time the item was introduced. This item will be reintroduced and voted on at the July 8, 2008 EDA meeting.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**4. COMMONBOND FUNDING REQUEST OF \$4,000 FOR CROWN RIDGE  
ADVANTAGE CENTER PROGRAMMING**

Scott-Sims introduced the item and highlighted the occupancy rates and the programming that is occurring at Crown Ridge for youth and adults. Scott-Sims said that city council approved \$6,000 for the Crown Ridge Advantage Center 2008 programming at its December 17, 2007 meeting, providing CommonBond the opportunity to come back for the remaining \$4,000 later in the year. CommonBond is now requesting those funds.

Yaeger asked about the current occupancy at Crown Ridge. Jesse Hendel of CommonBond replied that as of June 1, the building is at 97 percent occupancy.

Yaeger asked about the status of the grants that CommonBond was pursuing in November 2007. Marilyn Peller Nelson of CommonBond replied that they

received Pohlads camp scholarships for kids to attend camp, they expect to hear about the Target grant by June 27 and the General Mills grant is outstanding. Peller Nelson recapped the status of other grant opportunities that they are pursuing including Communities of Color and Piper Jaffray. They applied for a G&K grant but were denied in the first round. They will continue to make connections and establish relationships with potential funders.

Weishar Cousins asked why CommonBond has changed its marketing strategy to focus on college students. Hendel stated that a low percentage of new residents have been families. More families work during the day. They have had more luck in attracting residents when they began broadening their marketing to other segments of the population such as college students.

Wagner asked Scott-Sims whether the source of funding would be from the livable communities account. Scott-Sims replied that it would.

St. Peter suggested that CommonBond look at other foundations such as Park Nicollet and UnitedHealth Group as possible funding opportunities. St. Peter asked Hendel what the city can do to help increase occupancy because increased occupancy leads to increased revenue for the building. Hendel stated that UHG has supported Crown Ridge by providing volunteers but not funding. Peller Nelson stated that the Park Nicollet and UHG foundations support medical and health related funding requests. St. Peter suggested that CommonBond apply and focus on early childhood health and development.

St. Peter suggested that future requests from CommonBond should compete in the CDBG funding requests process for ongoing support.

Wagner directed staff to find out how other communities and their EDAs/HRAs handle similar funding requests.

St. Peter discussed the history behind the city's support of CommonBond and Crown Ridge and stated that the city made the commitment to support Crown Ridge long ago and should continue to support it.

Wagner moved, Yaeger seconded a motion to recommend approval of the \$4,000 contribution towards the expanded Advantage Center at Crown Ridge. All voted yes. Motion passed.

## **5. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

The item was included for the EDA's information only.

Wagner stated that he was concerned that there were no questions on affordable housing in this year's survey since the establishment of an HRA levy has been discussed. Durbin stated that the focus of the questions included in the survey change each year and this year, the questions were focused on policy due to various proposed ordinance changes.

## **6. STAFF REPORT**

Scott-Sims reviewed the staff report items including the Opus Station Area Study, Southwest LRT DEIS Study, The Exchange Building, Glen Lake Streetscaping and Plaza, and the Hennepin Technical College "Green" Home.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **8. ADJOURN**

Yaeger moved, Duffy seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.