

**CITY OF LAKE ELMO  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES  
November 21, 2023**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Waldoch called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**PRESENT: Charles Cadenhead, Ninna Waldoch, and Tony Manzara**

**ABSENT: Paul Ryberg and Jeff Holtz**

Staff Present: City Planner Sophia Jensen and City Administrator Handt

**August 15, 2023 Minutes:**

Motion by Waldoch, seconded by Manzara to approve. Motion carried.

**Discuss Sale of Fire Station 1 and Parks Building**

Handt provided an update on Planning Commission recommendation to re-guide the city parcels comprising fire station 1 and the parks building on Laverne Ave to VMX. That recommendation will go to the city council tonight. Handt shared the evaluation criteria used previously in the RFP for the sale of the 180 acres. Additional feedback and discussion occurred around a minimum price and whether or not to sell the parcels all as one or break into two. Commissioners agreed with the criteria used before and the minimum price of \$100,000 with sale of all parcels at once.

**Annual Review of EDA Work Plan**

Handt presented an updated plan removing the previous goal on labor market supply and demand data but keeping BRE and Increase Number of Commercial and Industrial Businesses. Discussion and consensus to remove the BRE goal as it was getting harder to get business feedback. Manzara provided information about 3M Settlement Priority 2 grants coming next year and suggested three projects-(1) funds to pay off the GO Bonds on the city land that was a landfill so that it could be further explored and developed for a solar farm, (2) trail/boardwalk connections in Sunfish Lake Park, and (3) a fish study in Sunfish Lake Park. The commission focused discussion on the first option as the second two related more to parks than EDA. Manzara agreed to provide updated language to be included in the work plan and to write the grant proposal. Cadenhead mentioned improving business opportunities listed on the city's website. This could be accomplished under new goal 2. Discussion about meeting with or hearing a presentation from Connect Lake Elmo. That is something they could do at a council meeting to gain more awareness for their efforts.

Motion by Cadenhead, seconded by Manzara to recommend the EDA work plan to include the 3M grant project related to a solar farm, removing the BRE and focusing efforts in 2024 on goal 2. Motion carried.

**Future Agenda/Reports**

The next meeting of the EDA is scheduled for February 20, 2024. City Planner Jensen will begin the review and discussion of the sign ordinance with the commission at that meeting.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by Waldoch at 6:44p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristina Handt