

**CITY OF HANOVER**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES**  
**October 13, 2011**

President Todd Bartels called the Economic Development Authority meeting of October 13, 2011 to order at 8:00am at Hanover City Hall. Commissioners present were: Bartels, Jim Hennessey, Chris Kauffman, John Vajda (arrived at 8:07am), Keith Ulstad, Randy Whitcomb and Joe Kaul. Absent: none. Also present was City Administrator Daniel Buchholtz; EDA Consultant Heidi Peper, and Gene Goddard, GreaterMSP. Call to Order

**MOTION** by Hennessey, second by Whitcomb to approve the agenda for the October 13, 2011 EDA meeting. Motion carried 6:0. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** by Kaul, second by Ulstad, to approve the September 8, 2011 regular EDA meeting minutes. Motion carried 6:0. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** by Kaul, second by Whitcomb, to approve the accounts payable and financial report, as presented. Motion carried 6:0. Motion to Approve Accounts Payable

Vajda arrived at 8:07am.

**Business**

Business

**1. GreaterMSP Presentation – Gene Goddard**

GreaterMSP  
Presentation – Gene  
Goddard

Bartels introduced the item. Peper introduced Gene Goddard, Director of Business Investment for GreaterMSP. Goddard provided a brief history of GreaterMSP, noting that it evolved from the Itasca Group to fill a need to market the Twin Cities region to attract new businesses. He said that GreaterMSP has twenty employees, ten of which are completely focused on economic development. He said that the Department of Employment and Economic Development, in contrast, has only 1.5 FTE's focused on the metropolitan area. He said MetroMSP is funded primarily with private sector dollars in an effort to eliminate political influence. He said GreaterMSP would assist businesses through the red tape and bureaucracy of federal, state and local regulations and assist businesses and communities in the negotiation of tax incentive packages.

Discussion ensued about the best ways to promote Hanover within GreaterMSP. Goddard stated that GreaterMSP would share business leads they receive with every community, as well as work with the Wright County Economic Development Partnership to market each community to the business community. Hennessey inquired about the role of GreaterMSP in the political arena. Goddard stated that GreaterMSP is not a lobbying organization, but would work with stakeholder groups from the League of Minnesota Cities to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to seek adoption of a pro-business agenda.

Peper provided an overview of the Hanover community, including recent Census and State Demographer data.

No action was taken on the item.

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**2. Approve Rent Reimbursement Request for Maris Ehlers Photography**

Bartels introduced the item. Buchholtz stated that Maris Ehlers has applied for funds from the EDA's rent reimbursement program for her photography business. He said she is planning to lease 1,000 square feet of space in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street commercial building. He said she plans to open in November. He said the grant will be the maximum of \$2,400.

Discussion ensued about whether the rent reimbursement program should require applicants to submit a business plan or other more detailed information about the business. Several members stated that the requirement of a business plan would be a disincentive to apply for funds and was likely not needed for such a small amount of funds.

**MOTION** by Whitcomb, second by Ulstad, to approve the rent reimbursement application made by Maris Ehlers/Maris Ehlers Photography in the amount of \$2,400, conditioned on the applicant providing a copy of the lease agreement to the EDA. Motion carried 7:0.

MOTION to approve grant to Maris Ehlers Photography

**3. December Business Breakfast**

December Business Breakfast

Bartels introduced the item. Buchholtz stated that staff was beginning to organize the December business breakfast. He said the breakfast would be at 8am on December 8. He said the December EDA would follow at 9am. He suggested inviting Rhonda Baack, who recently started her new job as President of the I-94 West Chamber of Commerce. Consensus of the EDA was to invite Rhonda Baack to be the guest speaker.

Buchholtz stated that he would contact River Inn to cater the breakfast.

Bartels stated that he would like Buchholtz to give a brief presentation on the City's incentive programs, including the revolving loan fund, the rent reimbursement program, the façade improvement grant program, and TIF/tax abatement.

No action was taken on the item.

**4. Business Lead Update**

Business Lead Update

Bartels introduced the item. Ulstad stated that he contacted the broker in charge of the site selection search for Surly Brewery and surmised from that conversation that the EDA's proposal was a long shot. Kaul stated that the proposal helped raise the City's profile with that broker and stated that submitting the proposal was a worthwhile exercise.

Peper stated that she has been in contact with Dan Cummings and that he will likely be presenting a proposal to the EDA at its December meeting.

No action was taken on the item.

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**5. Marketing Subcommittee Update**

Marketing  
Subcommittee Update

Bartels introduced the item. Peper provided an overview of the Marketing Subcommittee's work, noting that much of the focus was on business retention and expansion activities.

**Reports.**

**1. Board Member Reports**

Board Member Report

No reports

**2. Executive Director Report**

Executive Director  
Report

No report.

**Adjournment**

Adjournment

**MOTION** by Hennessey, second by Vajda, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m.  
Motion carried 7:0.

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Daniel R. Buchholtz, Executive Director