

BLAEDC – R 2 R Steering Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2021

Attendees: Bruce Buxton, Tyler Glynn, Jennifer Bergman, David Chanski, Jon Schommer, Eric Charpentier, Matt Kilian, Shane Riffle, Alison Bedeck

Reports:

Jennifer Bergman –

1. Crypto Mining Opportunity in Brainerd – 2 firms (B & D Power Solutions, Just for Crypto) with discussions coming at EDA, transfer of Industrial Park lots to EDA to facilitate their use.
2. There will be a hearing on the proposed 2% levy increase on 12-16-2021
3. Downtown Business Council
 - a. Friday night is tree lighting downtown with caroling at 5:00
 - b. - Last weekend's small business Saturday was a remarkable success.

David Chanski –

1. EDA – Opted for RFP for services in 2022. Will decide ala carte at upcoming meeting 12-9-2021. There were 9-10 proposals
2. Parking Commission – 10-20 recommendations, Council to decide 12-6-2021 with public comment at meeting.
3. Incentives – there has been a slowdown since downtown is full. Report will be given at the next meeting.
4. 805 Laurel (Thrifty White) – did not get MHF tax incentives. They are still interested but are looking at market rate with 47+/- units, and a workforce housing grant.

Matt Kilian –

1. Workforce Development –
 - a. There was not much uptick in employment after unemployment/incentives ran out.
 - b. Twenty percent of all shopping is done in Nov., Dec.
 - c. Shop local campaign is big.
2. Vaccination Mandates –
 - a. Businesses with > 100 persons must take census, having masking, and policies in place for those that are unvaccinated.
 - b. There is a lot of push back and it is in the courts.
3. 210/Washington St. –
 - a. Have had several meetings and biggest issue is the proposed roundabouts on the east side of town.
 - b. HRA is setting up for improvements to housing and businesses and streetscapes with applications in 2023 and work in 2024 in conjunction with the MnDOT project,

Jon Schommer –

1. Brainerd Restoration –
 - a. Not much is going on right now due to little funding.

- b. They are still looking at more murals and ways to extend the new sound system downtown.

Eric Charpentier –

1. New boilers in high rise are going in and the project is looking good.
2. He reported also on 805 Laurel as he is working directly with the developer.
3. Warming house for the homeless (not in R 2 R corridor but important) It was approved on 11-22 and plans an open house on Thursday with opening on Friday 12-3.

Tyler Glynn –

1. There are funds available for childcare grants with applications closing 12-6.
2. He has been working diligently on RFP for Brainerd services.

Shane Riffle –

1. The YMCA is in the prefunding phase of the capitol housing plan.
 - a. 87k – to go for predesign, etc.
 - b. Intend to hire a project manager to spearhead the entire process.
 - c. U of M 1st draft of economic impact of the YMCA on Brainerd is under review and will be made available as soon as possible.
2. He is working with Jennifer with a connection to a developer on affordable housing on site.
3. Their childcare efforts are –
 - a. Holding for a DEED grant
 - b. Working with Sen. Klobuchar on Federal support
 - c. Working with BLAEDC on National EDA grant.
4. They are working with Close/Converse on a right of first refusal for adjoining lands around the YMCA as part of the capitol campaign.