**MANTORVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016**

**6:30 PM**

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Huppler called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Commissioners Present: Karl Huppler, Brian Hindal, Bob Soland, Chuck Bradford, Henry Blair, and Troy Stafford.

Others Present: Muriel French, Barb Loqua and Cami Reber.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Motion made by Commissioner Bradford, second by Commissioner Blair to approve the meeting minutes of November 1, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Financial Report** – Commissioners reviewed the financial report submitted. Asked Cami to double check the revolving loan fund payment dates and send out reminders or contact the applicants for those payments that are coming up.
3. **November 30, 2016** – Motion made by Commissioner Bradford, second by Commissioner Blair to approve the financial report as delivered. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **2016 Payment to Marigold Days** – Motion made by Chair Huppler, second by Commissioner Blair to approve the 2016 payment to Marigold Days for $1,500 as budgeted. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **New Business/Old Business**
6. **Mantorville Welcome Center**

Barb Loqua and Murial French were present from the Welcome Center to discuss its future with the EDA Commissioner. The funds they collect to operate are dependent on donations or fundraisers. It is quite restricted and most of them are getting too old to do fund raisers anymore. They are not sure what’s going to happen if they cannot come up with financial assistance. It costs a little under $3,000 per year to operate and totally by volunteers. Insurance is about $1,000, telephone service for 4 months, City water and sewer and MN Energy.

It looks like they will have enough to get through 2017 and maybe part of 2018. The building is fully owned. Chair Huppler asked what type of clientele/visitation they get there. Muriel said they keep a log book and that visitation has decreased as there are less bus tours coming to town. She is not sure what the intent was in the beginning (for the Welcome Center) but there were many more bus tours that came to town. She isn’t even sure of the last time a bus tour came to town. The clientele is mostly from Rochester and they stop in to ask what they can see, or to get directions.

They have not heard back from the City Council on their request to forego or get some type of break on the water and sewer bill. Commissioner Bradford (Mayor) noted that the Council has not made a decision as of yet and tabled the request until further information is received. It would be a benefit to know just how many people come there.

Murial noted that they are a 501c3 and she is not sure what will happen if they close. They can get the volunteers if they have the funds to keep it open. Their typical hours are 12:30 – 4 weekdays, 12:30 - 4:30 weekends. Murial feels there is a good chance that it won’t be there in a year or two. Commissioners continued the discussion and asked for a list of visitors to the Welcome Center. Muriel will get us the information we requested and the EDA will revisit this in January.

1. **2017 Stagecoach Days Update**

Commissioner Soland noted that fundraisers are set for spring and he is not sure how much money they can spend yet. Commissioner Hindal noted a list of 23 possible artists that he can send a note to, to see if there is interest. After further discussion, the date for the event is set for the last weekend in June. Commissioner Hindal will contact the Art Guild and see if they will participate.

1. **Update on LOGO Registration/Next Steps**

Commissioners were updated that the State has accepted the LOGO registration. Commissioner Bradford suggested that they schedule the release for the date of the Mulligan Stew in March. Further discussion will take place in January.

1. **2017 Committee Assignments**

After further discussion, the Subcommittees have been changed and commissioners assigned as follows:

**Branding** – Chuck, Brian and Karl – Karl will Chair

**Tourism** – Bob, Jane and Karl – Jane will Chair

**Stagecoach Days** – Bob, Brian and Henry – Bob will Chair

**Happy Trails** – Troy, Chuck and Henry – Chuck will Chair

1. **2017 EDA Budget**

An update was given that currently, the EDA proposed budget for 2017 has been approved. The City will adopt the final budget on Monday.

1. **Subcommittee Reports** – See above.

Chair Huppler updated everyone on the Rochester Chamber Business after Hours event on December 15 from 5-7 pm at Pace International.

1. **Adjournment** – Meeting completed and adjourned at 7:41 pm.