

Chair:
Dan Erickson

Commissioners:
David Radziej
Rob Williams
Sheila Bennett
Kilander
Brendan O'Meara

Council Liaison:
Steve Scott



**Economic Development
Commission
May 1, 2019
8:00 am to 9:00 am
City Hall**

Address:
1245 W Highway 96
Arden Hills MN 55112

Phone:
651-792-7800

Website:
www.cityofardenhills.org

City Vision

Arden Hills is a strong community that values its unique environmental setting, strong residential neighborhoods, vital business community, well-maintained infrastructure, fiscal soundness, and our long-standing tradition as a desirable City in which to live, work, and play.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

1. Call To Order

2. Approval Of The Agenda

3. Minutes
 - 3.A. February 6, 2019
Documents:
[02-06-19 EDC MINUTES.DOCX](#)

4. Unfinished And New Business
 - 4.A. State Of The City
Documents:
[STATE OF THE CITY MEMO.PDF](#)

5. Updates
 - 5.A. Commission Members

 - 5.B. Council Liaison

 - 5.C. Staff Comments

6. Adjourn

ADJOURN

A quorum of the City Council may be present at this meeting.



**CITY OF ARDEN HILLS, MINNESOTA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2019 8:00 AM
CITY HALL -- 1245 WEST HIGHWAY 96**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

City Planner Mike Mrosla called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Rob Williams, David Radziej and Brendan O’Meara, Council Liaison Steve Scott. Chair Dan Erickson arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Absent: Commissioner Sheila Bennett Kilander (excused)

Also Present: City Planner Mike Mrosla and Deputy Clerk Jolene Trauba

1. AGENDA ITEMS

A. New City Planner Introduction

City Planner Mike Mrosla introduced himself and told the Commissioners his work background.

Committee Members and the Council Liaison introduced themselves and gave their business backgrounds.

City Planner Mrosla noted that Commissioners Johnson and Cordes had resigned, leaving four vacant seats.

B. Committee Interview and Discussion

City Planner Mrosla stated that in an effort to get to know the Commission and their previous work, he had a list of questions to discuss.

City Planner Mrosla wondered what everyone thought about the 8:00 a.m. start time. After discussion, the consensus was the start time was acceptable, or they would be agreeable to start earlier.

City Planner Mrosla said he was considering asking the local universities if they would be interested in having a student commissioner and asked for the Commissioner’s input. It could potentially require an ordinance change to from a three-year term to a one-year term.

Commissioner Rob Williams suggested having the student attend meetings but not be officially on the commission.

City Planner Mrosła said he would ask the universities if they would have a staff person that would want to join the commission, and down the road consider adding a student.

City Planner Mrosła asked what they thought the City has done well in the past regarding economic development.

Commissioner Brendan O'Meara said he hadn't really seen much get done.

Commissioner Williams said they talk about things but not sure what they've actually accomplished.

Commissioner David Radziej noted they had started a project to connect with local businesses by meeting them but that seemed to have drifted, although it was a worthwhile project.

Commissioner Williams thought the City learned about issues businesses were having when they did visits but many visits did not happen.

City Planner Mrosła suggested that staff do the business visits, bring the concerns back to the Commission and the Commission potentially make recommendations to the City Council. He would also like to develop an online tool to show vacant space and update the website with critical information for business owners.

Commissioner Williams suggested staff schedule a business visit and then available Commissioners could attend.

City Planner Mrosła asked if they would be interested in going on business tours some months in place of having a regular meeting. He would like to have an article each month in the newsletter highlighting a local business. He'd also like to create a map showing Arden Hills' location, proximity to things such as the airport and downtown, and travel times.

Council Liaison Steve Scott said the Council would like the Commission to make recommendations.

City Planner Mrosła said he would like to refine business licensing program and fees. He'd like the Commission to look at the program to make recommendations for potential changes.

Chair Dan Erickson said hosting a broker and small business networking event had been discussed but to his knowledge, one had never happened.

Council Liaison Steve Scott noted that the Twin Cities North Chamber is having an open house March 14 and everyone is welcome to attend.

Chair Dan Erickson thought it would be nice to get a list of Arden Hills businesses that are members of that Chamber.

City Planner Mrosła said there would not be a March meeting due to the upcoming birth of his son, but he plans to keep the Commissioners updated via emails.

Further discussion ensued regarding the business license program and permanent sign renewals.

2. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Perkins location is being actively marketed for lease and there has been some interest.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Dan Erickson, Chair

Jolene Trauba, Deputy Clerk



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2019 **EDC Agenda Item 4.A**
TO: Economic Development Commission Chair and Commissioners
FROM: Mike Mrosla, City Planner
SUBJECT: State of the City

Requested Action

One of the primary tasks of the Economic Development Commission is to provide direction on the State of the City events.

Discussion

The City has held an annual State of the City event since 2013. The purpose of the event is to provide local businesses and residents with information about City projects and goals, and to build relationships with the business community. The 2018 event was held at the Tavern Grill restaurant and then a video of the presentation was shown at a later date at City Hall to interested persons.

The State of the City has generally followed a consistent format with members of the City Council providing updates on relevant topics including the City's finances, development projects, economic development initiatives, and the TCAAP project. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Transportation have also been invited each year to provide updates on local transportation projects. Staff would like to take the EDC's suggestions to the City Council at their June, 2019 workshop session.

Discussion Questions

1. Should the event be held at a different location?
2. How can the city better market the event to residents and businesses?
3. Should the State of the City have informational booths? (i.e. City Departments, Chamber of Commerce, Ramsey County Recycling)
4. Should the presentation spotlight businesses that reinvested in 2018?
5. Should the presentation spotlight new or relocated businesses from 2018?

6. Should the State of the City be an opportunity for community engagement? (i.e. photo contest, landscaping awards etc.)
7. Are there presentation topics that the EDC would like to recommend to the City Council?
8. Does the EDC have any other recommendations regarding promotion or format that could help improve the success of the State of the City?