

**MINUTES
EDAP BOARD**

JANUARY 17, 2012

Bruce Stang called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m. Members present were Chris Stanley, Jean Soine, Gene Beavers, Alan Habben. Also present was Doris Wendlandt and Renee Eckerly, City Administrator. Don Wiese and Don Pietsch were absent.

Motion was made by Stanley to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2011 EDAP Meeting. Seconded by Beavers and unanimously carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jeff Thompson's name should be removed from the agenda and Jean Soine's name added.

Motion was made by Stanley to elect the following:

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| Chairperson | Bruce Stang |
| Vice Chair | Chris Stanley |
| Secretary | Renee Eckerly |

Seconded by Habben and unanimously carried.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board discussed keeping the same meeting schedule as the third Tuesday of each month.

PURCHASE PARKING LOTS (JOELS)

Doris Wendlandt reported that there is a parking issue downtown with the business owners having their employees park in front of another business which causes no parking spots for customers in front of that business. Wendlandt reported that Joel Burr has two parking lots for sale for \$26,500.00 each and he would sell them contract for deed at 4% interest. There are 39 parking spots in the two lots. She suggested that EDAP purchase the lots and then rent the parking spots back out to the downtown businesses for their employees to park, which would open up the customer parking in front of the businesses. If EDAP purchased the lots the alley way could be moved so that a better ingress/egress could be made in the middle of the block which would be safer. She questioned why only one business should own it and provide for the whole downtown area.

The Board discussed that the Township could not participate because their revolving loan money has restrictions, but the City's funds do not. The maintenance and snow removal would be a burden to the City. The City could put stipulations regarding parking to force business owners to make their employees park there.

The Board reviewed previously if there was a need and Pietsch did a count of cars at various times of the day and found there was plenty of parking. It was stated that business owners pay to park in the lot PJ's own.

The Board discussed what type of precedence this would cause if other businesses want a parking lot like in the Industrial park. It was discussed whether other communities have open parking lots for the public. Growth is not being hampered by parking limits; it is economic development. The Design Team said it was a good problem to have because it makes the downtown appear busy.

One option is that the business owners around the parking lot form a coalition and purchase the parking lot, but money is the issue. A survey of the downtown businesses to find out the following information is needed:

- How many parking spots are downtown in the four block radius?
- How many employees are working from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.?
- Would you pay for parking such as \$100.00 per year?
- Would you mandate employee's park in the lot?
- Does the City have a need?
- What is the liability for the City to own the parking lot?
- What is the amount of property tax that would be lost?

The parking problem has been discussed many times at the Chamber and has gone no where. This would help for overnight parking since there is no overnight parking in the downtown area. It was suggested to beautify the lot to attract people downtown.

(Beavers left at 8:00 a.m.)

A pro to this project would be that it would allow Corner Drug to have a drive through for their customers. AMPI should be told to have employees park in their parking lot instead of in front of businesses. The Board discuss if it was an option to borrow the money to a business to purchase the parking lots.

INCUBATOR

This was not discussed.

ECONOMIC STATUS

This was not discussed.

PAST DUE LOANS

This was not discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.