

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT EDAP BOARD & CITY COUNCIL – WORKING SESSION
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION & REDEVELOPMENT

MARCH 19, 2019

At 5:30 p.m. the attendees went on a tour of downtown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Alicia LaBeau, Len Gilmore, and Shawn Reinke. Jeff Thompson and Neil Herzberg were absent. EDAP Board members present were Bruce Stang, Chris Stanley, and Wayne Nelson. Others present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Janna King, Economic Development Services, Inc., and Kristin Leither, Social Media Specialist.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION & REDEVELOPMENT

Kansier introduced herself and gave a brief background of developments she has been involved in.

Timeline:

- 1½ days of interviews – businesses and such to understand the dynamics
- Wrap up in June – July 2019

Discussion on:

- Community Foundation – downtown revitalization
- Key businesses
- More jobs than people
- Daytime population
- Key properties and owners
- Property – important to change catalyst of downtown and understand the economics of that area

First Phase:

- Sort out what the next step is between now and this summer

Vision For Downtown:

- Discussed the trade area for downtown, drug store, book store, Queen Bee's = products
- Mostly service

Demographics Of City:

- Elderly – shop locally; can't purchase certain items without Alco and Shopko
- Activating public spaces have become a replacement for retail space
- Library is under sized and would be on the public space list
- Area Center location is on the other end of town
- 2 lumber yards, 2 hardware stores, 1 greenhouse
- Hospital is very important to assist with expansion

- Affordable housing needed
 - Sand Companies
 - Stearns County HRA
- Industrial Park needs more space
- Vacant buildings need to be registered and ordinance adopted
- Runnings or Fleet are going into places where Wal-Mart has vacated
- Sporting-goods stores are needed
- Housing to rejuvenate
- Funding to remove blighted properties
- Carver County – has private veteran housing with a library
 - What would the community need to offer to bring a veteran's home here?
 - Small Cities Grant
 - TIF
 - Mental health facility
 - Rehab plaza funding
 - Housing assistance
- Grand Rapids – YMCA, senior center with a small clinic

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Renee Eckerly, City Administrator