

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
DULUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Wednesday, September 15, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Room 303, City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Call To Order:** The September 15, 2010, special meeting of DEDA was called to order by President Heino at 6:01 p.m.

**Present:** Nancy Aronson Norr, Tony Cuneo, Todd Fedora, John Heino, Don Monaco

**Absent:** Christine Townsend

**Absent Excused:** Jeff Anderson

**Others Present:** Bob Asleson, Lisa Baumann (Duluth News Tribune), Joan Christensen, Mitch Davis (Fox 21 News), Terri Fitzgibbons, Patrick Garmoe (PureDriven), Christine Gradl Seitz, Brian W. Hanson, Bronwyn Lipinski, Mark McShane, Christopher Swanson (PureDriven), Heidi Timm-Bijold,

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 25, 2010. Accept as written. Vote: Unanimous (5-0)

**DISCUSSION**

1. **NORSHOR THEATRE:** Hanson reported that accessibility research found that the NorShor cannot hold events until it is accessible to everyone, even for private events because it is a publicly owned facility. The NorShor Theatre will not hold events until the building is accessible to everyone.

2. **STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:** Hanson said that this process includes 25 regional partners, staff and commissioners. Final results will be brought to the next DEDA meeting followed by a roll out plan for the public. Norr asked about a financial overview of DEDA. Hanson replied that training will be set up in October and a preliminary 2011 budget will be available to Commissioners in November. Heino asked about the business development projects that are in process. Monaco and Cuneo stated that they would be interested in seeing the Economic Development Coalition agendas, since no minutes are taken at these meetings.

3. **MEETING FORMAT:** Fedora asked if this meeting will this be broadcast on Public Access Community Television (PACT). Hanson explained that although it will not be on PACT, it is being recorded for audio. If public feedback is received from those missing the meeting on TV, the format would be reconsidered. Cuneo asked if the

audio recording will be posted online. Hanson said they are not currently, but he will see if it can be done. Monaco added that a wider table would be better to include staff.

## RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **RESOLUTION 10D-37: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FIRST AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PURE DRIVEN LLC TO ASSIST THE CITY OF DULUTH GOOGLE EFFORT INCREASING THE CONTRACT BY AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000**

**Staff:** Hanson explained that because there has been no answer from Google yet and the original agreement with PureDriven has expired, an amendment is needed. PureDriven is still taking care of ongoing project based items for the City and is still in communication with Google.

**Discussion:** Swanson explained that because Lake County recently received a \$70 million grant for broadband fiber enabling every business and home in Lake County to have fiber access, our chances of Google choosing Duluth are greater.

**Vote to Approve Resolution 10D-37:** Passed Unanimously (5-0)

2. **RESOLUTION 10D-38: RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY PROGRAM TO USE UNCOMMITTED TAX INCREMENT PROCEEDS TO STIMULATE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT CREATING JOBS PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF MINNESOTA 2010, CHAPTER 216**

**Staff:** Hanson stated that funding for this resolution is coming from UHC District 20 resources. We will be searching for proposals to provide the best economic impact of these dollars and for projects that are close to construction, but have not yet begun. The maximum amount of \$350,000 per project was chosen to contribute to some major projects and can be used for private construction or rehabilitation but no public infrastructure. The construction must start by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 and money spent by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

**Discussion:** Norr wants to look at projects on a case by case basis, and be prepared to support projects that come along further down the line. Monaco is in favor of proceeding but is looking for guidelines for choosing which projects should be actively pursued. Fedora stated that he supports the program but would like to see an underwriting process. Heino added that the public would feel good about having a logical process but know we have to move quickly within the time frame. Christensen pointed out that the actual legislation states that the municipality must approve a spending plan. Timm-Bijold explained how this spending plan is similar to what the City staff does on a regular basis.

**Vote to Approve Resolution 10D-38:** Passed Unanimously (5-0)

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Heino adjourned the September 15, 2010, meeting of the DEDA at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hanson  
Executive Director

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