

MEETING MINUTES
GRAND RIVER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
JULY 11, 2019 – 8:00AM
JON GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER
29260 GRAND RIVER AVENUE
FARMINGTON HILLS MI, 48336

CALLED TO ORDER BY: MAYOR MASSEY AT 8:09 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRAZZLE, PRICE, MASSEY AND SMITH

MEMBERS ABSENT: MANN

OTHERS PRESENT: Samantha Seimer, Economic Development Director/Staff Liaison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Price, support by Massey, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MAY 9, 2019:

Motion by Price, support by Smith, to approve the May 9, 2019 minutes as submitted

Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

GRAND RIVER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY GRANT

Ms. Seimer presented a memo to the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority dated July 3, 2019. She reviewed that the CIA has previously approved a Façade Grant Program designed to encourage building owners to make improvements to enhance the overall aesthetic value of the corridor and foster reinvestment in the district. To date, only one grant has been fulfilled, with no interest in the last twelve months.

The CIA is now experience growth in annual tax increment revenue capture had has a fund balance of \$140,000. Chairman Price asked how much the CIA anticipates in tax increment revenue annually. Ms. Seimer did not know the exact amount, but would find the answer for the Board.

Ms. Seimer stated that the current grant guidelines allow awarded businesses a reimbursement of 50% for eligible project costs up to \$3,000. Although the grant is called a façade improvement grant, it allows for some items outside of a building façade including the acquisition of adjacent property for expansion. The Board discussed expanding the grant program to be for site improvements and include assembling adjacent land, and parking lot improvements. Inclusion of these items in the grant can help increase property values in the area and generate more corresponding tax increment revenue.

The Board discussed increasing the amount of funding available on an annual basis for the program and better marketing including fliers and direct mail to businesses. It was the consensus of the Board to budget funds of \$30,000 annually for site improvement grants with awarded amounts to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Additionally the board discussed adding information about the grant opportunity to the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority website and talking with Farmington to see if they have a similar grant program.

Motion by Massey, support by Price, to authorize \$30,000 for a Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority Site Improvement Grant program and authorize staff to update grant guidelines and marketing materials accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mayor Massey reminded the Board that the Authority currently has two vacant seats. If anybody knows of somebody who is interested in serving to please contact him. A member of the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority must either be a resident or own a business within the geographical boundaries of the CIA District.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 AM.

Minutes drafted by: Samantha Seimer