



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116
For TTY/TDD Users 1-800-627-3529 or 711 Minnesota Relay Service www.freeportmn.org

August 26, 2013 – Meeting Agenda
Freeport City Hall – 12:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of July 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes
- IV. New Business
 - a. Community Survey
 - b. Initiative Foundation Request
 - c. Other
- V. Old Business
 - a. Industrial Park Post Cards Mailed
 - b. Other
- VI. ADJOURN

Next meeting: September 16th



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July 15, 2013 – Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Freeport EDA Board was called to order by President Matt Worms at 12:06 P.M. with members Matt Worms, Jim Hemker, Carrie Goebel and Mason Schirmer present (Andy Welle arrived following). Member Bud Heidgerken was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Goebel moved and Worms seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Hemker moved and Goebel seconded a motion to approve the May 20, 2013 minutes. Motion carried 4-0. Andy Welle arrived.

NEW BUSINESS

Industrial Park Post Cards & Advertising

Schirmer said he spoke with Victoria Holthaus regarding the origin of the post cards; according to her, the post cards were not going to be mailed until advertising and informational materials regarding the available lots was ready to be provided to interested businesses that would be responding to the post cards. Members reviewed a draft flyer, a brochure regarding assistance programs, and the Industrial Park Land Purchase and Business Subsidy Interest Form. Hemker said the post cards should be mailed soon. Worms commented on proposed improvements to the flyer. Schirmer said he would verify all lot information prior to printing. Hemker said the \$5,000 deposit on the Interest Form does not seem useful. Schirmer said he would look into the forms approval and how it can be revised. Hemker said the remaining lots may be difficult to sell due to their location and size and asked if the price per square foot can be reduced in an effort to sell the lots. Schirmer said he would research the options available for reducing price.

Schirmer asked if a survey should be distributed throughout the community to determine if any potential business ideas exist. Welle suggested surveying all household within a five-mile radius of the city. Worms suggested providing postage-paid post cards with just a couple questions, something easy to complete and likely to be returned. Goebel left meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Schirmer said he will be out of the office the week of August 19, 2013. Members agreed to reschedule meeting for the following Monday (August 26, 2013).

ADJOURN

Worms moved and Hemker seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 P.M. Motion carried 4-0.

Matthew Worms, President Mason Schirmer, Secretary

Your Opinion Matters!

STAMP

We Want to Keep You Smiling!

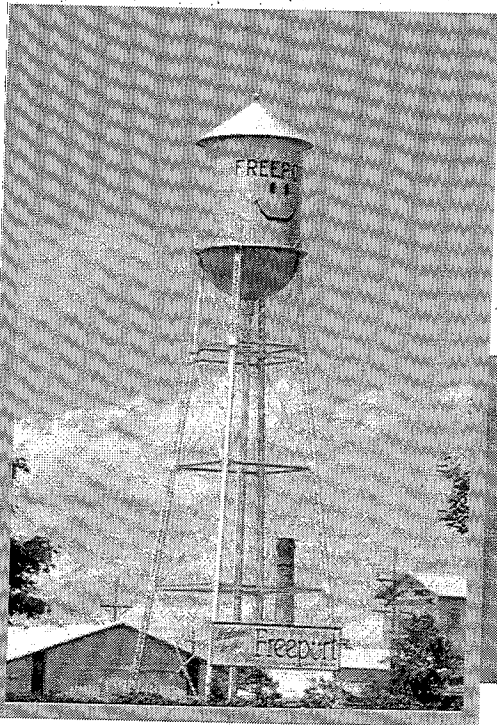
We would like to get your feedback on potential business ideas for our city. Please fill out the back of the card and put in the mail.

The City appreciates your help and time well spent.

City of Freeport

125 Main St. E
PO Box 301
Freeport, MN 56331

Phone: 320-836-2112
Email:



City of Freeport

125 Main St. E
PO Box 327
Freeport, MN 56331

STAMP

We Want to Keep You Smiling!

We would like to get your feedback on potential business ideas for our city. Please fill out the back of the card and put in the mail.

The City appreciates your help and time well spent.

1. Have you ever had an idea for a business? If so, what was it?

2. Do you know of anyone that may have an idea for a business?
If so, what was the idea and what is their name (include phone
number if possible)

3. Do you know of a business that may want to expand or relocate to
area? If so, what is the name of the business and who should we
contact (include name and number)?

4. If we have any questions regarding your survey, we may want to
contact you. Please provide your name and number

1. Have you ever had an idea for a business? If so, what was it?

2. Do you know anyone that may have an idea for a business? If so, what was the idea
and what is their name (include phone number if possible)

3. Do you know of a business that may want to expand or relocate to the area? If so,
what is the name of the business and who should we contact (include name and
phone number).

4. Do you have any skills, talents or abilities that you would like to do professionally?

5. If we have questions regarding your survey, we may want to contact you. Please
Provide your name and number.

The following is a rough draft of a letter that could potentially be included along with the survey to provide recipients: 1) with a little background on why they are receiving this mailing; and 2) encouragement to fill-out the survey and return it.

- Your opinion matters and the Freeport EDA wants to hear it.
-
- The Freeport EDA is asking everyone in the surrounding area for help.
- The EDA (Economic Development Authority) is a volunteer committee commissioned by the City of Freeport to develop business in and around the community.
- Freeport wants to be a community that supports local ideas and people
- Resources are available, and we will help guide business ideas through the start-up process
- Good ideas are out there, and we need your help finding them
- Maybe you, or someone you know, has an idea for a business
- We are reaching out to everyone within ____miles of Freeport
- What stops you from starting, or expanding, a business
- Along with this letter is a postage-paid post card with a short survey, please complete the survey and drop into the mail.
- For more information on the Freeport EDA and this survey, contact Mason Schirmer at 836-2112 or stop by the offices of the City of Freeport at 125 Main Street East, Freeport, MN 56331.

Initiative FOUNDATION

Victoria Holthaus
City of Freeport
PO Box 301
Freeport, MN 56331-0301

July 13, 2012

Dear Ms. Holthaus and members of the Freeport City Council,

Please consider this letter as the Initiative Foundation's sincere thank-you for your past support and a request for continued support in 2013, which will be immediately doubled by a matching grant from The McKnight Foundation.

As you may know, the Initiative Foundation supports local government's critical role to ensure an environment that fosters engaged citizens, thriving communities and a strong economy. Unfortunately, the recession is not over for many families. That's why our five-year strategic goals are focused on economic growth and quality job creation:

Resilient Businesses

- Secure 1,500 quality jobs that pay at least \$35,000 per year with benefits
- Invest in economic drivers like technology and manufacturing

Thriving Communities

- Enhance quality of life, natural resources and recreational amenities
- Build a world-class workforce, starting with early childhood and youth

Effective Organizations

- Strengthen nonprofit ability to navigate the new economy and reduce employment barriers
- Improve fiscal health of nonprofits that provide critical safety nets

Local Philanthropy

- Help donors create charitable funds and facilitate complex gifts that benefit local projects

For more than 25 years, the Foundation has responded to requests for assistance in central Minnesota. When organizations wish to advance an important project, we respond with grants and training. When businesses wish to expand, we respond with financing and consulting. When communities need an ally, we respond by engaging local citizens and building public-private partnerships that lead to results.

To support our critical work in economic growth and recovery, we respectfully request consideration for an investment of \$500 in 2013.

An Initiative Foundation contribution earns a substantial return on investment. For every local dollar contributed, the Foundation has returned \$9.13 back to Stearns County in grants, loans and scholarships.

Please sign the commitment card below and return in the enclosed envelope. Again, thank you for your consideration and continued support of our work in Freeport. Please contact us with questions or to request a staff presentation.

Sincerely,


Kathy Gaalswyk
President


Matt Kilian
Vice President for External Relations

ifound.org
320.632.9255

405 First Street SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Equal Opportunity Lender,
Provider, and Employer

Our business is your community.

PARTNERSHIP IDEAS

Six ways that the Foundation can serve local governments.

1. APPLY FOR A GRANT

The Foundation awards quarterly grants (\$5,000 average) to projects that:

- Help communities address barriers to business growth and employment
- Advance economic self-sufficiency for vulnerable children and families
- Support training programs for future, displaced or underemployed workers
- Help businesses survive and grow through access to consulting services and education
- Help communities improve efficiencies through shared services
- Support local units of government in planning for recreational amenities
- Support for community-based response and recovery planning

2. REFER BUSINESSES FOR FINANCING

The Foundation partners with other lenders to make business loans that create quality jobs. We can help coordinate financing packages, subsidize management training for borrowers, and serve as a key piece of the puzzle that enables a local business to start up or expand.

3. ENGAGE CITIZENS & TRAIN LEADERS

The Foundation hosts programs, workshops and leadership discussions related to community planning, economic development, nonprofit management, early childhood and environmental preservation. Our newest effort is the Thriving Communities Initiative that connects the public and private sectors to address economic growth and recovery.

4. RECOVER FROM DISASTERS


If your community experiences a tornado, flood or other disaster, please call the Foundation immediately. We can host and promote a charitable relief fund, accept online donations, and make distributions at no charge. Timing is critical to take advantage of news media reports. We can also provide grants and staff assistance for community recovery and rebuilding.

5. START A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

From 2011 to 2030, nearly \$48 billion may be passed from one generation to the next in central Minnesota. Does your community have a local foundation to accept gifts, bequests, or even real estate? We host these funds and often provide matching gift incentives. Community foundations are wonderful resources that provide local dollars and promote generosity.

6. FIND SOLUTIONS

If you are facing a unique challenge, we are usually able to refer you to professional expertise, possible funding sources, or other organizations that have had similar experiences. Just give us a call!



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STEARNS COUNTY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

For a full listing of Initiative Foundation investments in Stearns County, contact us at 877.632.9255.

Grants Thriving Economy, Thriving Communities

Anderson Center, St. Cloud	Management training for business leaders
BestPrep, Greater St. Cloud	Business mentorship & financial literacy for students
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MN, St. Cloud	Career development program
Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Community, Cold Spring	Latina entrepreneur program
City of Avon	Water quality improvement through stormwater filtration
City of Cold Spring	Transportation planning
Communities Connecting Cultures, Melrose	Staffing support for cultural liaison
Junior Achievement, St. Cloud	Entrepreneur education & mentorship for students
St. Cloud Area Family YMCA	Feasibility study for aquatic center
Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council	Workforce skills certification

Business Financing Local Ownership, Quality Jobs

Automotive Parts Solutions, Rockville	Automotive parts supplier; 15 initial jobs
Concept Processing, LLC, Melrose	Hormone-free dairy processing; 4 initial jobs
DeZurik, St. Cloud (equity investment)	Water valve manufacturing; 416 initial jobs
Green Power Technology, LLC, Waite Park	Winter concrete technology; 8 initial jobs
HealthNorth Medical Supply, Cold Spring	Retail home health care; 6 initial jobs
Little Saints Day Care, St. Joseph	Childcare center; 10 initial jobs
MicroBiologics, Inc., St. Cloud (equity investment)	Microorganisms for laboratory testing; 74 initial jobs
RotoChopper, St. Martin	Industrial grinding & chipping equipment

Charitable Funds Activating Generosity

Granite Equity Partners Fund | Jane & Patrick Mitchell Foundation | Big Fish Lake Association Fund | THRIVE Fund (early childhood mental health)

Community Action The Power of Partnership

Engaged citizens in strategic planning and awarded grants to improve quality of life, economic vitality, and opportunities for families. Cities include St. Cloud, St. Martin, Avon, Eden Valley, Holdingford, Cold Spring, Sartell, Belgrade, Kimball, St. Joseph, Melrose, Rockville, and Paynesville.

Trained leaders from 280 nonprofit organizations in effective management and financial sustainability, including Rural Stearns Faith in Action, Cold Spring; African Women's Alliance, Waite Park; and Opportunity Manor, Sartell. Assisted 20 lake associations to develop man-

agement plans and awarded grants to address water quality, invasive species, shoreland restoration and septic systems.

Formed coalitions in Melrose, St. Cloud and Sartell to improve early childhood care and education, including the Thrive Coalition for children's mental health.

Placed full-time VISTA (a national service program to help reduce poverty) members within nonprofits including Casa Guadalupe, Rural Stearns Faith in Action, Catholic Charities, Tri-CAP, United Cerebral Palsy and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota.

Assisted in launching Greater St. Cloud Community Priorities and the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, focusing on business recruitment and expansion.

Worked with St. Cloud Neighborhood Association to engage residents and revitalize core neighborhoods.

Partnered with St. Cloud State University to support Small Business Development Centers and launch a Microlending Fund to provide start-up capital to entrepreneurs.

Initiative
FOUNDATION

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Our business is your community.

Initiative
Foundation
at work in

STEARNS COUNTY

Our Mission: Unlock the power of central Minnesota people to build and sustain thriving communities.



\$1.4 MILLION
in local donations to the Initiative Foundation.

\$13 MILLION
returned to Stearns County in
grants, loans, and scholarships.

Return on Investment

For every local dollar contributed, the Initiative Foundation has invested **\$9.13** back into Stearns County. All endowment contributions are matched by The McKnight Foundation.

Economic Impact 1986 to present

- Awarded 691 nonprofit grants totaling **\$4.8 million**
- Invested 132 business loans totaling **\$8 million**
- Secured **1,991 quality jobs**
- Leveraged **\$35.2 million** in private business financing

Initiative
FOUNDATION

STEARNS COUNTY TRENDS:

	2000	Most Recent Data	Statewide
Population	133,543	150,642 (2010) 12.8% growth	5,303,925 (2010)
Median Household Income	\$55,760	\$48,383 (2009)	\$55,616 (2009)
Unemployment Rate*	3.1%	5.0% (May 2012)	5.3% (May 2012)
Percent in Poverty	6.2%	12.1% (2010)	11.6% (2010)

Sources: Minnesota DEED, MNCompass.org – July 2012

*Not seasonally adjusted