

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
DULUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 4:30 P.M.
Room 303
3rd Floor City Hall**

MINUTES

- Call To Order:** The January 23, 2013, Special meeting of DEDA was called to order by President Monaco at 4:32 p.m.
- Present:** Nancy Aronson Norr, Dan Hartman, John Heino, Emily Larson, Don Monaco, Christine Townsend
- Others Present:** Joan Christensen, Christopher Eng, Bronwyn Lipinski, Chris Maddy, Kevin Scharnberg, Ellen Pemrick (by phone), John Rhodes (by phone)

DISCUSSION

1. Business Development Strategic Plan Discussion

Monaco mentioned that he and Heino and Norr have participated in previous interviews. Larson asked Rhodes about previous themes of priorities and concerns given so far. Rhodes listed destination venue, small businesses wanting to grow, and aerospace and aviation industry labor issues. Larson mentioned two other issues; a skills gap and the growth of medium sized businesses. She asked about tangible tools that can be put into place and new strategies we can embrace and put into place for these issues.

Rhodes added labor, real estate, and being treated more like a customer so we can get our business done.

Heino mentioned workforce development and coordination with educational facilities. Rhodes said that solutions may be here, but we need to engage those involved. Monaco brought up self-image, branding, marketing and how to describe ourselves locally to put us on the map.

Pemrick suggested that the external view of Duluth has not caught up with what is really happening here.

Hartman asked Rhodes about what we do *not* do well and where there is room for improvement. Rhodes responded that there is a labor problem, but a one that can be solved.

Monaco wondered if we should not be so narrowly focus on Duluth; how to balance the needs of City versus needs of region. Rhodes said that he has found people want industrial space adjacent to amenities.

Monaco suggested that Rhodes offer to meet DEDA commissioners outside this meeting to get more detailed input. He wondered what role DEDA will play after this report is complete, but Rhodes believes that they will be engaging with DEDA throughout the process with regular meetings.

Heino appreciates that Rhodes thinks of the arts as an integrated part of Duluth instead of an afterthought.

ADJOURNMENT: President Monaco adjourned the Special January 23, 2013 meeting of the DEDA at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher T. Eng
Executive Director

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