



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Council Session

## Item E3

**Public Hearing on the Semi-Annual Report by the Citizens' Review  
Committee on the Economic Development Program Plan**

Staff Contact: Citizens' Review Committee

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Dale M. Shotkoski, City Attorney

**Meeting:** April 14, 2009

**Subject:** Public Hearing Concerning the Semi-Annual Report by the Citizen's Review Committee on the Economic Development Program Plan

**Item #'s:** E-3 & G-6

**Presenter(s):** Dale M. Shotkoski, City Attorney  
Mark Stelk, Vice-Chairman,  
Citizen's Advisory Review Committee

## **Background**

The voters of the City of Grand Island approved an economic development plan at the May 6, 2003 election. Subsequent to the election, the city has adopted an ordinance that establishes the economic development plan and a Citizens' Advisory Review Committee to oversee the process of approving applications for economic development incentives. The Citizens Advisory Review Committee is required by State Statute and the Grand Island City Code to make a semi-annual report to the City Council.

## **Discussion**

The Citizens Advisory Review Committee has been conducting regular meetings during the last six months as required by the City Code and the Nebraska Statutes. The committee looks forward to receiving and reviewing meritorious applications for consideration in the future. The committee received the semi-annual report from the Economic Development Corporation at its meeting of March 24, 2009, and voted to forward it on to the City Council for its review and acceptance.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Accept the semi-annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

2. Do not accept the semi-annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council accept the semi-annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to accept the semi-annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

Grand Island Area Economic Development Corp.  
2009 Semi-Annual Report  
By: Marlan Ferguson, President

Raising the quality of life for Grand Island area residents continued to be the goal thru higher paying jobs, a stronger tax base, and industry diversification. With so many challenges affecting our community, with the current state of economy, it is important that all business and community leaders work together in harmony to ensure that Grand Island remains on the cutting edge.

After the beginning of the year, several companies showed an interest in the Spec Building but one of Grand Island's very own proved to be the most sincere. Nova-Tech, Inc. is a FDA registered device manufacturing facility which began as an animal blood collection and sterile serum facility and is now focused on the aseptic fill of large volume and small volume sterile injectables, specifically fluids, minerals and vitamin products custom manufactured for animal health distributors. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Nova-Tech, Inc. became the proud owner of the Spec Building. Nova-Tech will renovate the current building to include additional production lines as well as in-house warehousing and offices. We look forward to the completion of this project and having Nova-Tech as one of our newest businesses located in the Platte Valley Industrial Park.

Last year at this time, the EDC had twelve lots available; today, we have only nine. Recent additions to the park include Fed-Ex Ground, ASAP Express, and our latest resident will be First Holiday Tour & Travel with their transportation industry. Interest remains strong for the industrial park.

The EDC remains a contender for a possible new manufacturing company; during this past year, we referred to this project as "Project Amada". Staff has spent a significant amount of time in the recruitment of this project. Just a few year's ago, our board purchased its first 80 acres east of the current industrial park. By securing this parcel and several other parcels, the EDC readied itself for a large manufacturer. Project Amada will employ no less than 250 employees on approximately 160 acres.

For this board and future boards, being selected as the purchaser for 1,700 acres located at the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant land remains significant. We were given 75 days to finalize a purchase price with the Army Corps of Engineers. On the 73rd day all parties agreed on a price. The overall plan is to develop these acres into the Cornhusker Industrial Park. Grants have been written which will help in this endeavor. Presently the EDC has received a planning grant and has been assured of a \$2 million dollar infrastructure grant.

In April of 2008, with the hard work of the Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce, former Mayor Ken Gnadt, and former Mayor Jay Vavricek, Grand Island was selected as the new home for the Nebraska State Fair. This is a once in a life time opportunity for this community to step forward and seize this long term economic boost.

Let's not forget our past commitments, but let's move forward in a professional and intellectual manner that puts us a step ahead and gives the public the confidence that indeed we are moving in the right direction.