

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Tygh Valley Community Center

57594 Tygh Valley Road, Tygh Valley, OR

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Chair Joan Silver, Dan Durow, Frank Kay, Donella Polehn, Carina Schmidt, Michael Zingg, Mary Kramer, Dan Spatz, Andrea Klaas and Fred Justesen

GUESTS: Commissioner Scott Hege, Steve Kramer, Randy Franklin, Mike Davis, Linda Davis and Sherry Holiday

EDC Staff: Jessica Metta and Anna Tompkins

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was present.

MARCH 2012 MINUTES

Dan Spatz made a motion to accept the minutes for March 15, 2012 as presented. Donella Polehn seconded, motion passed unanimously.

EDC OFFICER ELECTION

Jessica Metta stated that the current Chair officer is Joan Silver and Vice Chair is Andrea Klaas.

Donella Polehn made a motion to reelect the current officers for another year, Carina Schmidt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EDC LOAN FUND CONCEPT

Joan Silver gave a brief overview of the loan concept and then an update of the progress made since the last meeting. Jessica contacted three different projects on the Needs and Issue list and found that one was very interested, another wished for more information and one rejected the offer completely. Therefore, the loan fund concept does have merit but not all will have an interest in applying. Joan presented a loan application form to the board for their feedback and vote of approval. Discussion regarding the form and requirements followed.

Frank Kay made a motion to accept the loan form with the addition of a place to list ranking from Needs and Issues list and to remove deadline for application. Fred Justesen seconded, motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION CONCEPT

Mike Zingg presented to the board a concept to develop the Business Retention and Expansion Program in The Dalles and Wasco County. He gave a short background about how he came across this program and his research into the concept. The program focus is to support existing businesses in retention and expansion projects. There is a cost for the program and training.

The board discussed past programs similar to this concept and the outcomes. The board favored the idea of a long term program but desired to understand more about the successes and failures of other communities. The board discussed developing the framework with the help of Bruce Sorte and other key groups that would help organize the program.

The board agreed to wait on making a motion to recommend the program to the Wasco County Commissioners until after they have a round table discussion with Bruce Sorte.

STAFF REPORT

Jessica Metta reviewed the staff report and gave an update on marketing available property which involved sending letters to property owners of industrial zoned land to post property on Oregon Prospector, Wasco County GIS updates, and that Tycho is compiling cost and time estimates for the switch to share with the EDC and Board.

TYGH VALLEY PROJECTS AND ISSUES

Randy Franklin shared about the needs for the Community Center which is currently a new roof and to change the building heating from oil. Both projects are expensive and the work has mainly been completed through fundraisers and volunteers. The volunteer board that oversees the Community Center is actively looking for a new grant writer that can assist in getting funds for these projects.

Mike Davis shared a little about the water system and answered a few questions from the board regarding the new cistern and reservoir capacity. He shared about his desire to understand the community's needs and concerns so that there can be collaborative effort to focus on the main issues. Discussion followed on creating a community forum. Steve Kramer shared about a new emergency shelter in the area.

REGIONAL UPDATES

County Commissioner Scott Hege shared that the County is finishing up their first budget draft and though there are a few upcoming challenges, he believes that overall there is sufficient coverage.

Andrea Klaas gave a quick review of the Outreach Team's trip to Washington, D.C. She highlighted a meeting with Veterans Service to explore a pilot program for professional transition from military to civil careers in The Dalles service region. Columbia Phyto Technology and Green Homes have recently moved onto Port of The Dalles property.

Donella Polehn shared that the orchards are in pollination stage. She promoted the Ag Fest that will be a part of the Cherry Festival and gave a report on behalf of Dan Spatz that the ground breaking of the armory is June 2, 12:30 (RSVP needed) and passed out the CGCC 2011 Annual Report.

Fred Justesen announced that there will be a three day long music festival and attraction event on his property in July. It is called *What The Festival*, and more information is online.

Mike Zingg reported that he has been part of planning meetings for the Mosier School that just received a large donation.

Dan Durow stated that the new dock completion has been delayed to mid-June and has already been contacted by four tour companies that have interest in making The Dalles a stop because of the close proximity to the downtown. There will be a soft opening for the Festival Park on July 14th.

Joan Silver told the group about SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) through MCCOG that has been servicing Wasco County rural areas.

The next meeting is May 17th and will be at Polehn Farms which will include a tour of the orchard and operations.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:58 am

-Minutes submitted by Anna Tompkins