

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning
CHAIRPERSON: Vince Hasken
DATE/TIME: May 24, 2004. 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schultz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bielenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mapes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petitgout	

Others: John Mazor, CVB

MINUTES

1. Minutes

There were two corrections for the minutes of April 26, 2004. John Mazor was in attendance of the meeting and the first item under 3b should have read "The increase is intended to be consistent with the County's overall salary and wage adjustment objective. The significant increase last year to \$7.50 was intended to bring the contract staff up to the minimum level." Dane Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Joanne Bielenda seconded and the motion passed.

2. Old Business – nothing

3. New Business

a) Merri Berlage and the County Administrator met with Judy Eikstadt of NICAA regarding the Small Rental Properties Program. The County is not participating in the program this year, but they want to participate next year. NICAA is asking for the County Board Chair to sign the application when it comes in. The Treasurer's office wants more money to administer the program. Judy will talk to her board and let the County Administrator know their response. Ron Mapes made a motion that the County Board Chair is allowed to sign the SRPP application when it is presented. Jackson seconded and the motion passed.

b) Economic Development

- CEDS resolution. Blackhawk Hills sent a draft resolution for the board's consideration. (Attached.) Bielenda made a motion to approve the resolution. Jackson seconded and the motion passed.
- Economic Development update. The County Administrator is working on a program draft.
- CEDS report. The County Board Chair received a letter from the CEDS committee stating that they don't want to meet until they have a staff member to direct them. The committee wants them to continue meeting. County Board members have met with Royster Clark officials regarding their plant expansion. They will probably

want to address the County Board in August. Their concerns are community and environmental opposition to coal being unloaded at the river. The committee recommends that the people from Royster Clark get in contact with the CEDS committee chairperson, Don Fouts. The County Board Chair and the Development & Planning Committee chairperson will attend the next CEDS committee meeting.

c) CVB

- John Mazor reported that the Galena Cultural Arts Alliance will be taking over the operation of the Old Market House Visitor Center, owned by the State of Illinois, effective July 1. This will eliminate the income of \$17,000 from the State of Illinois to operate the facility, but will be easily made up by reductions of staff. As a part of the arrangement with the GCAA, the CVB offered a \$2500 stipend to help them ease into the contract.
- Community Outreach Program. The goal is to help tie community leaders and local residents to the visitor industry by sharing programs with them that the CVB undertakes. Eleven community meetings have been held in Warren, Hanover, Galena, Elizabeth, Stockton, Scales Mound and East Dubuque.
- Other Updates.
The CVB Advisory Board will be having their planning retreat this week.

The Triathlon was cancelled this past weekend. Lakeshore Athletic Services is contracted to manage the race. The weather turned bad in the morning and the race was delayed. The Sheriff and the race promoter determined that the conditions were not safe to hold the race and it was cancelled. No refunds will be offered.

Advertising pieces focusing on local produce are coming out shortly.

The DCI report three years ago presented 20 objectives for a comprehensive plan for tourism. Two objectives have not been addressed yet. One objective is staff and aligning the responsibilities of staff and a performance system. The other issue is budgeting and finance and working with the County Treasurer's office. Mazor asked the committee to consider if destination marketing is best served as a department of County government or some other form of doing that. Mazor stated that a contractual arrangement could be created with a non-profit organization. It was one of the recommendations that came from the DCI report, but was not adopted by the County Board. Berlage asked Mazor what would be gained by the CVB being separated from the

County. Mazor thought that greater detail could be discussed next month, but he sees a couple of areas including personnel, financial reporting, and access to legal counsel. Taxes must be collected through the Treasurer's office and the administration fee would still be paid to the County. Mapes asked if the communications systems were linked, such as accounting, if that would help. Mazor replied that his preparations for the budget would be considerably easier if he had real-time access to the financial system. Jackson made a motion that the CVB director compile a list of pros and cons that relate to the CVB as a department of County government for the next meeting. Schultz seconded and the motion passed.

- Jackson volunteered to serve on the CVB Advisory Board to replace Dick Alexander.

4. Executive Session

- a) Berlage made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Jackson seconded and the motion passed.
- b) Mapes made a motion to leave Executive Session. Berlage seconded and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned following a motion by Petitgout and seconded by Schultz.