

MINUTES

Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee

Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 5:00 p.m.

Highland College West, Elizabeth
Conference Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Members Dave Ylinen, Doug Riedl, Pat Keleher, Elaine Klippert, Bill Wolter;

Staff: Pat Leitzen Fye

ABSENT: Dave Jansen, Geoff Barklow, Mick Arand

MEETING CONVENED: 5:10 p.m. by Economic Development Director, Pat Leitzen Fye.

- I. Minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting were approved by unanimous vote on motion by Klippert, second by Ylinen.
- II. Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair
 - a. The County Board approved, at their August meeting the appointment of Dave Jansen as Chair of the CEDS Committee. Doug Riedl will serve as Vice-Chair, with Leitzen Fye acting as Recording Secretary. Wolter moved to concur with the County Board decision, seconded by Keleher; approved unanimously.
 - b. Vice-Chair Riedl chaired the remainder of the meeting in the absence of Chair Jansen.
- III. The OEDP, as developed by CEDS and approved by the County Board, indicates the need to complete a Business Retention & Expansion Survey (BRE). Since the last meeting, Leitzen Fye received information from and communicated with Edward Sitar of Excelon Corporation, parent company to Commonwealth Edison. ComEd offers a Business Visitation/Retention Service (BV/RS), complete with survey tool, data entry and reports to be used in any community in which they have a presence. After review and discussion, including committee questions about costs for purchasing a sub-license (by the County) allowing us to conduct the survey in the whole county, a motion was made by Klippert, seconded by Keleher to direct E.D. Director to explore the options and begin the process of the BV/RS with ComEd. This would be Phase I of the project, to be conducted in the following ComEd communities: Stockton, Warren, Elizabeth and Apple River. Phase II would take place upon decision of available options for the remaining communities of Hanover, Scales Mound, Galena, and East Dubuque. Motion was approved unanimously. The CEDS committee as well as other volunteers may be called upon to assist is the visitation and surveys of county business and industry.
- IV. Leitzen Fye reported on the status of the Greenways & Trails Grant Application. The Planning & Development Committee approved the submittal of the application, to be handled by Blackhawk Hills R, C & D at their October meeting. Following grant award, Jo Daviess County will issue an RFP for a consulting firm to complete the Greenways & Trails Plan. CEDS committee can play a role by assisting with public hearings associated with the planning process.
- V. Regarding regional CEDS committee attendance, the committee discussed the importance of staying connected on a regional level; Leitzen Fye will include the CEDS committee in the notice of regional meetings (held bi-monthly) with the goal of Chair Jansen or his designee attending on a regular basis.

Leitzen Fye informed the committee that Senator Barack Obama's Field Representative in the Quad Cities office, Seamus Ahern, would like an opportunity to meet with both the CEDS committee and the mayors of Jo Daviess County communities. It was decided to schedule a joint meeting with a target date of Tuesday, December 5, 2006; CEDS committee meeting would take place in the first half-hour of the meeting, with mayors invited to attend. This agenda will include a discussion regarding quarterly CEDS/Mayors meetings. The rest of the agenda would be discussion and dialogue between committee, mayors and Mr. Ahern. This would be an informational meeting and an opportunity for county and community needs to be addressed for communication to the Senator. Leitzen Fye will follow up with Mr. Ahern and scheduling the meeting. Riedl will work with Leitzen Fye to pre-plan the meeting schedule for 2007, both bi-monthly and quarterly meetings.

VI. Member concerns:

- a. Wolter reported on Hanover: the highway through town has been resurfaced and re-stripped; antique businesses are refreshing their storefronts; two new restaurants have opened and appear to be doing well; Invensys Appliance Controls, Inc. has invested \$2 million in new equipment as well as re-painting the exterior of the facility; two new businesses – art shop and ceramics shop; Hanover Motors is building a new facility near the Coyote property, which is still available for purchase; a brand new park was built by over 120 volunteers, using funds totaling more than \$60,000, raised by local volunteers and via a \$30,000 grant.
- b. Klippert reported that the Elizabeth Market has a new owner who has expanded hours and hired a couple new employees; Safe Haven (animal protection) is working to open their new facility just outside of Elizabeth; the Apple River Fort continues to attract lots of visitors with their extensive programming.
- c. Keleher reported that Scales Mound receive a first place "Governors Home Town Award" for the development of their recreation park.
- d. Ylinen reported that the Cybervault Technologies company conducting data storage in the old munitions igloos is progressing well on their expansion at the former depot; the Foreign Trade Zone was approved with an informational workshop held at the depot on October 5th that attracted both business people and economic development professionals; fiber optic lines are coming to the depot which will greatly enhance its viability with better technology availability; the winery is progressing with plans for the production, sales and tourism portions of the business.

VII. Adjournment at 6:30 p.m. on motion by Riedl.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leitzen Fye