

MINUTES

CEDS Committee

Meeting of Nov. 13, 2002, 7:00pm
County Court House

Present: CEDS Committee Members
Bill Cowsert
David Jansen
Doug Reidl
Steven McIntyre

Absent: CEDS Committee Members
Bill Wolter
Caroline Fisher
Charles Loehr
Dan Leitzen
Daniel O' Keefe
Darryl Barklow
David Ylinen
Don Schweihs
Jill Williams
Richard Reusch
Terry Heim
William Wubben

Others Present:
Don Fouts, CEDS Committee Chair Person
Janet Anderson, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Dale Roberts, President of Elizabeth
JoAnne Bielenda, County Board Member
Steve Haring, Blackhawk Hills Economic Development

Introductions: Don Fouts opened the meeting. Introductions were made by each committee member for the benefit of the speakers.

Minutes Approved: Motion to approve the minutes for September 5, 2002 was made by Bill Cowsert and 2nd by Steve McIntyre. Motion carried.

CED's Committee: Janet briefly addressed the inclusion in the packets sent to everyone regarding the CEDS Strategy. The attachment was simply to refresh everyone's understanding of the ultimate goal of this committee.

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New Business: Janet addressed the Affordable Housing workshop that at this point was more of a progress report. In that vein, she apprised the committee that attendance was disappointing while the speaker, Judy Eiktstadt, Executive Director of Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency was informative.

The Strategy Plan II was addressed by her stating that this is in process and in the interest of time for the speakers, she will memo everyone about the Strategy and its process.

She referred to the Jo Daviess County Portfolio as something, in the interest of time, she will memo to everyone.

Progress Report: Janet stated that the Business Forum was a good success; that it was received well by those who live, work and conduct business in Jo Daviess County. The information was very good. The speaker's presented well.

Presentation: Richard Auman, Mayor of the City of Galena
Cindy Pepple, Director of Economic Development for Galena
Mike Scholz, General Manager of Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort in Galena

Mayor Richard Auman of Galena informed us that a prior attempt to organize and conduct an Economic Development Committee was not successful. This, the second attempt of an Economic Development committee is successful. The goals and objectives set up by this committee are:

- 1) Economic Development effort
- 2) Diversify retail offerings
- 3) Sustain tourism
- 4) Sustain sales tax revenue
- 5) Retain current jobs

In regard to objective 1, Cindy Pepple was employed. Mayor Auman told the committee that the objective of downtown reconstruction is taking place with the expense of \$8 million; \$14 million was aligned for waste water treatment plant and \$3 million to improve the water and well system.

The City of Galena is going to invest \$200,000 in a park and bike trail. He also discussed the potential for incentives to attract businesses to Galena. Galena's sewer treatment has the capacity to handle 4 times the size of Galena. He mentioned that they needed to back up; stop thinking so much about incentives and think what it is they want to do first for the community.

Mayor Auman and Cindy spoke in tandem. **Cindy, Director of Economic Development** for Galena offered us insight in her proactive efforts to have Internet express service the Galena area. This was a challenging task because no one was interested in the small community, now she says people from this industry are soliciting their services. She said that \$6 million is allocated to the improvement of Main St. in Galena. However, they do not have the money at this time.

Cindy, Steve and Dave discussed the potential of knowledgeable, experienced, retired individuals who live in the Territory that could be a source of information and assistance to economic development. Mike Sholz believes that the reason these individuals live in the Territory or simply retire in our area is to get away from the hustle and bustle of the larger cities. Don remarked that when he attended a gathering for the Homes for Humanity, that there were several individuals who were looking for things to be involved in, to be a part of.

Mike Scholz, General Manager Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort in Galena said that in the Territory there are 175 rental houses. The hotel records show \$30 million in gross sales, 175 thousand guest nights. There are 600 employees in the high season, 300 employees in the low season. \$9 million incurred in wages and benefits and \$2.7 million resulting in sales, hotel and real-estate tax.

Mike said that he would like to find a way to get the 300 back who leave in the down season. If he could find companies who had a down season when his was up and a high season when his was down, the employees could be shared. Dave Jansen mentioned the Swiss Colonies as an opportunity. Steve mentioned job sharing and how that could work. Requests for affordable housing for employees were also discussed.

Steve talked about the progress made in Apple Canyon in regard to housing in contrast to the infrastructure limitations. Mike mentioned that off season events were necessary, and that additional emphasis on advertising and awareness was needed.

Scheduled next meeting: It was decided that Janet would contact everyone for a meeting time and date consensus. Dave Jansen recommended that we bypass a meeting in December to work on one in January.

Meeting adjourned: Don Fouts