

MINUTES

Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee

Tuesday, October 7, 5:00 p.m.
Highland College West, Elizabeth
Conference Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Members Dave Jansen, Nathan Greiner, Vince Hasken, Pat Keleher, Helen Schamberger,

ABSENT: Doug Riedl, Bridgette Stocks, Bill Wolter

MEETING CONVENED: 5:15 p.m. by Chairman Dave Jansen.

- I. On a motion by Schamberger, second by Hasken approval of minutes of the June 3, 2008 meeting was unanimous.
- II. New member Nathan Greiner of Elizabeth was introduced. Nathan represents Elizabeth and the business community, as the Owner of the Design Mill in Elizabeth.
- III. Old Business:
 - a. BRE Survey: Interviews are progressing. About half are completed with others being scheduled steadily. Helen Schamberger has assisted with all of the Stockton interviews; Elaine Klippert, former CEDS member, assisted with a few of the Elizabeth interviews. Goal is to complete by mid-November with a public meeting to share the results and interpretations in early February.
 - b. Greenways & Trails Plan: No report.
 - c. Mayors Meeting: No mayors meeting was held in the third quarter; a planning meeting took place on September 11 to discuss the future of economic development efforts in the county to which mayors were invited and participated. Ideas are being developed for topics for future meetings. Leitzen Fye distributed a property identification form developed for use by CEDS and the Mayors to begin to build the data base of available buildings and land for development. The committee is asked to use the form for properties they are aware of and to submit any completed to Leitzen Fye. Mayors will also be asked to submit/update on a quarterly basis.
- IV. New Business:
 - a. Strategic Planning and b. CEDS role in Economic Development: The strategic planning meeting was discussed in detail by those CEDS members who were present on September 11. One member was discouraged that, while there was considerable enthusiasm, there was no financial commitment on the part of the county board for continued or increased funding of the program. It was reported that at the October 2 meeting of the small group of volunteers several programs were reviewed: Northwest Illinois Development Alliance, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, Cuba City, WI, and Carroll County Economic Development Corporation. The general consensus of that meeting was that a 501(c)3 corporation (public/private) is probably the best alternative for providing economic development services. To that end, Rick Dickinson, Director of Greater Dubuque DC, has been asked to attend the follow-up meeting scheduled for November 6 at Jo-Carroll Energy.

The Committee discussed their views on the county's current and potential economic development services. Opinions on returning to a county economic development department, developing a public/private partnership, and the CEDS role in decision-making and in future strategies were stated and deliberated. In the end, the Committee generally leans to the development of a new public/private entity but is also concerned about the transition necessary to bridge the gap between the end of the current county fiscal year/funding and the forming of the new entity or structure, whatever it may be. In order to maintain services to the communities and provide that transition, Helen Schamberger made the following motion:

"To recommend to the Development & Planning Committee of the County Board to retain the current Economic Development Director via whatever workable agreement necessary (including an independent contract), and to further explore options in the formation of a new economic development public/private partnership within the next six months."

Seconded by Vince Hasken, the committee unanimously approved the motion, and asked Leitzen Fye to submit the recommendation to Ron Mapes, Development & Planning Committee Chair. Additionally, the Committee agreed that they are interested in more active participation in the future economic development program.

- c. The committee, by consensus, agreed to maintain the meeting schedule as per the 2007-2008 schedule; changes may be forthcoming based upon any new developments in service delivery in the new fiscal year. (See attached meeting dates schedule.)

- V. Member roundtable: In the interest of time, comments were kept very brief.
 - a. East Dubuque is continuing to see considerable interest in their downtown and Highway 35 TIF districts; Leitzen Fye reports that she has spoken with three companies looking to locate in East Dubuque and that she continues to work with Al Griffiths on the Enterprise Zone and on rail relocation efforts in the proposed Highway 20 TIF district.
 - b. Dave Jansen reported on some of the challenges being faced by the Midwest Regional Medical Center.
 - c. Leitzen Fye reported that she recently referred an entrepreneur to the RLF and assisted her in pursuing the purchase of a building in Hanover. That purchase has been completed; she is now pursuing conventional and county RLF financing to open her new salon/spa.
 - d. Leitzen Fye reported that she has been in contact with a small custom manufacturing concern looking to locate both the manufacturing facility and a retail facility in Galena; she is in communication with Mark Moran, City Administrator and requested information from committee on any properties they have knowledge of.

- VI. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2007, 5:00 p.m. at Highland College West Campus in Elizabeth.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leitzen Fye