

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning
CHAIRPERSON: Vince Hasken
DATE/TIME: April 26, 2004. 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Bielenda

Hasken
 Jackson

Mapes
 Schultz

Others: Linda Delvaux, Troy Brown, Nick Tranel, John Schultz, Ron Lawfer, Bill Hatfield, John Mazor

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Dane Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22. Joanne Bielenda seconded and the motion passed.

2. Old Business – there was no old business.

3. New Business

a) Farm Bureau.

- Reality of Rural Living. Members of the Farm Bureau explained The Reality of Rural Living booklet they have prepared. The group would like the County to require realtors to have clients sign a form indicating they had read and were familiar with the booklet. The booklet discusses the level of services available for country dwellers. The committee noted that there is no way to make realtors have people sign that they have read and understand a booklet because we lack the legal authority to do so.
- Setback Issues. Ron Lawfer addressed the committee asking for some wording changes in the zoning ordinance. He would like “reverse setback” to be changed to “existing agriculture operation setbacks”. (Attached). The committee discussed setbacks and the process that the zoning review committee is undergoing right now. The committee indicated that this matter should be brought to their attention.

b) CVB

- Consideration of a 2% increase of Furst Staffing Services for visitor information center staff. 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. Troy Brown inquired as to why the CVB was trying to associate contract costs with County employee policies. John Mazor offered that this was the result of committee action in a previous year. Merri Berlage

asked John if he had sought competitive proposals. He indicated that he had not. Marvin Schultz made a motion to approve paying Furst Staffing Services up to 2% increase in services. Joanne Bielenda seconded and the motion passed.

- Old Market House Contract. The current contract for staffing the Old Market House Information Center is set to expire June 30, 2004. The state agency (IHPA) that contracts with CVB for the Old Market House Information Center may not be able to fund this in the upcoming year's budget. Mazor indicated that the Galena Cultural Arts Alliance may be interested in taking over the contract. More information from the GCAA will be available the first week in May.
- Advisory Board Planning Retreat, May 26 at the Farmers Guest House. The all day planning session will "Explore the destinations strategies for enhancing the visitors' experiences, activities and interests. Assess the current 'state' of community-sponsored events. Examine systems/structures needed to encourage the development of new visitor product."
- Second Chicago Tribune Mini-Mag. October 24, 2004 is the date selected as the release of the second Chicago Tribune mini-mag. 500,000 copies of the insert will be distributed on that day. The first mini-mag is scheduled for release on June 3, 2004. Over 1.2 million copies will be inserted into the Chicago Tribune, Quad Cities News, Minneapolis Pioneer Press and Wisconsin State Journal.
- County Line newsletter. John asked the committee to review and give feedback on the CVB's quarterly newsletter that is sent to local elected officials and members of the visitor industry. John introduced the idea of changing to an email-based newsletter, but the committee felt that they should continue with the printed version. The committee discussed and reached no decision on inserting articles on general County affairs into the existing County Line newsletter.

c) Economic Development

- Merri reported that some of the economic development projects have been referred to Steve Haring at Blackhawk Hills and Janet Mathis of DCEO. Discussed whether the position will be filled.
- The committee was advised that the Enterprise Zone is finished, but the Foreign Trade Zone application has only been signed so far.
- Committee members have heard rumors that the chemical plant in East Dubuque will be undergoing a large expansion with the addition of many jobs. The local level needs to support this effort.

4. Other Items

- a) Building permit charts.
- b) Other items. Linda reported that the intergovernmental agreement with Galena regarding zoning issues is sitting on Glen Weber's desk. Also discussed the work of the Zoning Review Committee and if that has been through legal review yet. Ron Mapes made a motion to tell the States Attorney that the County Board needs his attention on the Zoning Review or allow outside counsel to be brought in. Dane Jackson seconded and the motion carried. Troy, Linda and Merri will talk to Glen.
- c) Correspondence was received from the Department of the Army and distributed to the committee for information regarding their efforts at the former Savanna Army Depot.
- d) Linda was asked if the County has a nuisance ordinance regarding junk cars, debris and dumping. Discussed the responsibilities of the County, Townships and private property owners.

5. Executive Session

- a) Dane made a motion to enter Executive Session. Ron seconded and the motion passed.
- b) Marvin made a motion to leave Executive Session. Ron seconded and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Merri Berlage, seconded by Vince Hasken.