



Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, Sept 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

City Hall and Zoom Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – meeting called to order at 6:00pm
2. Roll Call—Attending Mitch Seiberling, Rob Hoffmann, Mason Nickols, Scott DeVries, Deb Townsend, Sue Ponder. Excused: Tim Havenstrite, Jeff Davidson, Chad Allegar, Christy Lindsey
3. Approval of Agenda—moved by Hoffmann, seconded. No discussion, approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Minutes (from Aug 25, 2021 meeting) —moved by Hoffmann, seconded. No discussion, approved unanimously.
5. New Business
 - a. Elect Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary—DeVries nominated as chair, Seiberling nominated as Secretary. Both elected unanimously by voice vote. Committee tabled electing a vice-chair until the commission had full membership.
 - b. IEDA workshop feedback / summary—discussion around the IEDA walk around catalyst project; new program available for downtown upper story housing, patterned off the catalyst grant application, does not have a pre-application period, final application is due January 31, 2022. Award is coming from \$20M available funds, so likely a one-time program to take advantage of the funds. Additionally, another program using new federal funds will be coming in the next months.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Live, Work, Play Flyer—work in progress, still waiting to have meeting with entire team to officially kick off the project.
 - b. Wayfinding Signs—need to check in with DOT contact on latest feedback; may be getting close to being able to finalize an application and start working on quotes
 - c. JEDCO / Prairie City Façade Improvement program update—final stages of application for a project in Monroe; working with getting an application together for Colfax. City council approved the EDC suggested Prairie City Façade Improvement program with a commitment of 30K to the program (for the potential for three projects within Prairie City). Has been presented to business owners in Prairie City, will follow back up with them to gauge interest and timing.
 - d. Real Estate Update
 - i. Commercial Property update / availability—doctor's office has moved into new facility, will continue to transfer stuff from downtown office into new

facility, they will have a ribbon cutting open to PCBA and EDC members, details to be sent to EDC members. There is lots of local interest in built out, move in ready storefronts and offices, the area just does not have a lot of available space currently. Moore Manufacturing facility added to available commercial property listings. Mustang Tire is currently not selling, Whiskey Barrel is still for sale.

- ii. Housing Project Update—houses are starting once again; need to be considering what are the options for next phase, have started to reach out to developers about interest in future development. Tried to reach out to other partner in townhome development—seems like it is currently on hold.
- e. Red Rock Prairie Trail Update—still on track for October bid letting; construction admin has been assigned; congressional discretionary spending is still being considered; still continue to work with Marion County and Army Corps about extending/connecting to the Volksweg Trail
- f. EDC (Corporation) Update—no new action; site plan for west plot has been sent back with some suggested changes, waiting on revised plan; no interest in the middle section to date.
- g. JEDCO Update—continue to work with Mahaska Communications on expansion into Newton; flurry of activity looking for industrial ground.
- h. Hometown Pride Update—no movement since meeting with legal counsel, still trying to get a 501c3 designation established for the county group. Discussion on possible grants and city programs to increase community beautification, especially along the new trail route.

7. General Discussion:

- a. PCBA leadership grant program—working on outlining a program that would develop local leaders and networking.
- b. Community improvement group—something similar to what Altantic, Iowa area is doing (CADCO)
- c. List of projects and action items for budgeting.
- d. Status of Prairie City trailhead—what is happening with this project in Prairie City?
- e. New trees to be planted out at the buffalo in late October by city with derecho grant money.

8. Next Meeting: October 27, 2021 - 6:00 PM City Hall/Zoom Meeting

9. Adjournment—moved Nickols, seconded. Approved unanimously.

American with Disabilities Act Compliance:

If there is anyone wishing to attend that may require special assistance in being able to participate in this public meeting, please advise City Hall of your needs forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.