

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2021 at 3:00 pm
City Council Chambers

Committee Members:

Gene Merrill (Chair)
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair)
Tripp Androy – By Phone (late)
Shauna Bland
Sam Engel – By Phone (late)
Ron Goss – By Phone
Kenny Houck – By Phone
Josie Molloy
Colene Martin
Cameron Camp- By Phone
Bob Schaller
Paul Lonquist - Absent
Kim Dickson - Absent
Dale Fisher - Absent
Daniel Mancuso - Absent

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter – City Business Advocate
Darin Fowler County Commissioner– By Phone
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction-Absent
Joel King – City Councilor

Guests:

Daniella Bivens, River’s Edge Academy
Charter School (REACH)
Bud Amundsen, Youth 71Five Ministries
Heather Merrill
Marta Tarantsey (late)

1. Roll Call

- a. Chair Merrill started meeting at 3:11 and welcomed Joel King as new Council Liaison.

2. Welcome New Members

- a. Dale Fisher and Joel King (Council Liaison)

3. Public Comment:

- a. Daniella Bivens representing REACH Charter School shared her work with industry and education. Many youth organizations are collaborating together to provide opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Vocational training as well as soft skills. She also shared information about a recently accomplished Regional Needs Assessment and a \$120K grant for Josephine County.
- b. Bud Amundsen shared information about the Youth 71Five mission and training program. Many young people are growing up without established relationships to help prepare them for life. VoTech is one of the successful programs that is currently offered in Medford and bringing these opportunities to Grants Pass.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of minutes from November 24, 2020.

Motion

Member Houck moved and Vice Chair Hawkins seconded the motion to approve the minutes from November 24, 2020 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:
Committee Members: Houck, Goss, Schaller, Molloy, Martin, Camp, Chair Merrill and Vice Chair Hawkins. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.

Absent: Members Mancuso, Fisher, Lonquist, Dickson, Androy, Bland and Engel.

The motion passed.

5. Work Session Items:

a. Council Goals for 2021-22

- Chair Merrill gave a brief overview of the presentation that he gave to City Council for strategic planning.
- The Grants Pass airport has still not received funding from the City for the grant matches.
- Attendance is important for this committee to get buy in from Council and Commissioners.
- Top priorities include housing action plan and Caveman Plaza interest.
- Councilor King mentioned that the airport funding is still on the City Council work plan.
- He mentioned that economic development integrates with many other activities and committees such as urban renewal, tourism, trails, public safety.
- Council King shared all of the three-star items and mentioned many of the two-star priorities for the coming year such as a homeless shelter, caveman pool, equity task force and parklets as well as many others.

b. Broadband subcommittee update

- Member Camp shared that he and Bryan Hawkins are working to identify possible pilot projects in Merlin. Mapping will turn into subsidies.
- There is a 140ft tower going into Merlin for connectivity.
- TRSD is reaching out to students in Cave Junction and handing out devices for online services.
- Councilor King inquired as to what was needed from a Councilor perspective. Discussion followed about mobile data plans were being offered to students, however, there has not been many takers.
- Member Camp mentioned due diligence in finding more ways to get telecommunication to the rural areas.
- Messaging is important and Member Schaller asked if the sub-committee needed to help. The messages go out to all of the students and parents.
- Member Hawkins mentioned that the service in Merlin is lacking.

6. Information Sharing:

a. Items from Committee Members

- Member Houck shared the successful collaboration with City of Grants Pass, Josephine County Commissioners, IVCD and SBDC to administer \$275K in grants funds to 159 small businesses in just one week right before the new year.
- Member Houck mentioned how important it is to coordinate and work together with partners to achieve more successful outcomes.
- Ron Goss shared some plans regarding his retirement. This was the last meeting and there will be a new SBDC Director soon who will be taking his place and serving on the CEDC as a RCC representative.
- Member Martin shared her involvement Mainstreet Matters as the State representative for Oregon Chamber of Commerce.
- Martin urged letters of support to come from both City and County. She also encouraged members to check out the State Chamber website under advocacy.
- Member Molloy also shared the information is on the local Chamber website.

- Molloy shared the county is still in extreme risk at least until February 11. There were small changes made to indoor gyms and theatres guidelines, however, very minimal.
- She encouraged shopping local and visiting the restaurants offering take out and outdoor dining options.
- Member Engel and Marta Tarantsey discussed the placemaking committee from SOREDI One Rogue Valley coalition. Data is being collected for a document for developers to utilize.
- Housing Advisory is working on many components for affordable and workforce housing and increasing density.
- There is also a survey regarding housing needs assessment.
- Member Tripp Androy will be serving on the budget committee for the City of Grants Pass.
- Member Houck mentioned with new Councilors and new Commissioner, we need to get positive affirmation from the governing bodies regarding the committee bylaws. Brain trust of ideas that can move forward.

b. Items from Councilors and Commissioner

- Commissioner Fowler had to leave early.
- Councilor King mentioned that we need to keep working on items identified in workplan. Encouraged everyone to look at the bylaws and make sure they are being followed.

c. Items from Staff

- Susan shared that SOREDI administered \$1.2 mil in grant funding to Josephine County businesses and will be issuing a check to Foundry Village for \$12,000 from some of the administration fees they received.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- a. RCC update/Water Service (scheduled for March)
- b. Innovation Hub
- c. Rogue Valley food System (Sam Engel)
- d. Foundry Village (Doug Walker)
- e. Bylaws review

8. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 25, 2021

Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.