

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2023, at 11:00 am
Ridge Conference Room

Committee Members:

Bob Schaller (Chair) - Teams
Daniel Mancuso (Vice Chair) – Absent
Bradley Converse - Teams
Cameron Camp - Teams
Colene Martin – Teams (late)
Ethan Lane -Teams
Gary Richardson - Teams
Gene Merrill - Absent
Josh Duval - Teams
Josie Molloy - Present
Mark Woods - Present
Ron Gordon - Absent
Ruth Swain - Teams
Tori Middelstadt - Absent
Tim Sweeney - Absent

Government Liaisons:

Vacant, County Commissioner
Jean Ann Miles, City of Cave Junction - Absent
Valerie Lovelace, City Council Liaison – Teams

Staff Liaisons:

Bradley Clark, Director CD - Absent
Dana Pearce, Economic Development Manager - Present

Guests and Others:

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Schaller called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** No one from the public was in attendance
3. **Work Session Items:**
 - a. **Airports – CEDC response on vitality and economic impact**
 - i. Chair Schaller opened the meeting stating the purpose of deciding whether the CEDC as a group would like to put together a statement for the Board of County Commissioners about how important we think the airports are and to make our position clear. Chair Schaller requested that someone make a motion to put forth the statement to the County Commissioners.
 - ii. Member Camp provided some background information on the reason the entire airport department staff quit. He explained the airport department was working with a very tight budget and the Commissioners attempted to “claw back” additional funds which would have left one person to do everything. Member Camp convinced Airport Director, Jason Davis, to stay on if we could work towards a strategy plan for the airport department and perhaps other County departments. Previously, the County Commissioners had agreed to focus on a strategic plan and solution, so Member Camp would like to revisit that.
 - iii. Member Lane inquired about the reason the Commissioners are trying to “claw back” the money. Member Camp explained they want to redirect it to law enforcement. Member Molloy inquired about the amount of money being taken back. Member Camp said they were taking back 10%, however, this makes it tenuous for the airport department when it comes to their need to supply matching funds in acquiring grants. Additionally, it impacts the staffing needs required to administer the grants. Member Camp is also concerned that the

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) could take back funds that have already been spent.

iv. Councilor Lovelace shared with the Committee that John West is the new County liaison for economic development and should be invited to the CEDC meetings. Chair Schaller committed to contacting John West directly and inviting him to participate in the CEDC.

v. Chair Schaller questioned whether CEDC is micromanaging the County operations by recommending they do a strategic plan. Member Richardson understood the perspective and restated that the CEDC is observing actions that will hurt economic development in the County because of the lack of a strategic plan. The airports' funding issues are a good example of why the plan is needed.

vi. Member Martin made the Committee aware that Jason Davis is in the hospital having heart surgery today. She also shared, based on a conversation with retired Airport Director, Larry Graves, that Commissioner Baertschiger is working on this issue. It is a large job and requires more people. Larry Graves does not have a good recommendation for someone to take Jason's place.

vii. Member Converse inquired about the possibility of privatizing the airports. Member Camp said it is possible but in his experience in the Illinois Valley if the County ceased operations, it would go back to the BLM and they do not want to operate it. Member Converse also wanted to recognize the importance of law enforcement for the economic vitality of our area and felt we should empathize with the challenging decisions the Commissioners are faced with.

Motion

Member Camp moved and Member Martin seconded the motion that the CEDC send a liaison to the Board of County Commissioners expressing the importance of the airports department and the desire to work together strategically to ensure continued prosperity and economic health of the County. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Schaller, Members Converse, Duval, Lane, Martin, Richardson, Molloy, Swain, and Woods. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Vice Chair Mancuso, Members Gordon, Merrill, Middelstadt, and Sweeney. The motion passed.

viii. Member Martin recommended that Member Camp be the CEDC representative that present to the Board of County Commissioners because he is the most knowledgeable on the airports. Chair Schaller, Member Camp, and Member Richardson agreed they would schedule to go before the Commissioners on Wednesday, March 1st at 9 a.m. at the Anne Basker Auditorium. They will request continued dialogue.

4. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: February 23, 2023

Minutes prepared by Dana Pearce, City Staff Liaison.