

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
Ridge Conference Room

Committee Members:

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

Government Liaisons:

John West, County Commissioner - Absent
Jean Ann Miles, City of Cave Junction - Absent
Valerie Lovelace, City Council Liaison – Teams
Marta Tarantsey, State Liaison, Business Oregon - Present

Staff Liaisons:

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

Guests and Others:

Dave Tribbett, Sorin Innovation Center – Present

- 1) **Roll Call:** Chair Schaller called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.
- 2) **Public Comment:** Dave Tribbett for Sorin Innovation Center introduced himself and shared that he came to observe.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of minutes from January 26, 2023.

Motion

Member Duval moved, and Member Merrill seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2023, meeting. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Schaller, Members Martin, Woods, Gordon, Swain, and Sweeney. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Vice Chair Mancuso, Converse, Camp, Lane, Richardson, Molloy, and Middelstadt.

The motion passed.

- b. Approval of minutes from February 10, 2023 - Special Meeting. Member Swain requested that Chair Schaller be added as a CEDC representative under 3.a.viii and Member Woods requested to add the scheduled meeting date and time.

Motion

Member Woods moved, and Member Gordon seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2023, meeting, as amended. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Schaller, Members Martin, Merrill, Duval, Swain, and Sweeney. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Vice Chair Mancuso, Converse, Camp, Lane, Richardson, Molloy, and Middelstadt.

The motion passed.

4) Work Session Items:

- a. City of Grants Pass and Josephine County Economic Development Strategic Plan
 - i. Chair Schaller commented that he would like to revisit the plan and specifically felt the projections for the forest and cannabis industries were not accurate and the plan should be amended.
 - 1. Goal of CEDC is to advise implementation of all economic development actions in the strategy.
 - 2. Committee discussed the history of the Strategic Plan and noted that the document cannot be amended but could potentially add an addendum to provide an update.
 - 3. Revisit the plan and do research to see where we can better implement the plan.
 - ii. Liaison Tarantsey addressed the Strategic Goals for the year and encouraged the group to develop our agendas and work plan to reflect those goals.
 - 1. Councilor Lovelace discussed strategic planning. Council gave directive to staff to find out about Spalding. Who owns it? Where is it at?
 - 2. Opportunities for work plan include Spalding / Airport for industrial property.
 - iii. Discussion regarding airport development
 - 1. Airport is reliant on several grants and a funding match for FAA.
 - 2. Due to our lack of large industrial land sites, the focus has been on small to medium business going into hangers at the airport.
 - 3. A potential opportunity for the airports could be drones. Liaison Tarantsey shared information about UAV technologies and expressed that our airports could be good for research / testing.
 - 4. Member Merrill also explained airports are important as an economic driver, but also for public safety to be used during fire season and as part of a network in a major disaster like a Cascadia event.
 - 5. Committee discussed further potential resources for the Airports and agreed that an update from County Commissioner West or the Airport Advisory Committee is needed.
 - 6. It was reiterated that Chair Schaller, Members Camp, Richardson, and Woods will be meeting Wednesday, March 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the Anne Basker Auditorium to present to the Commissioners on behalf of the CEDC regarding support of the airports.

5) Information Sharing:

- a. Committee members
 - i. Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Survey update
 - 1. The survey reached a milestone of 70+ surveys and are being transferred to a consultant to compile the data.
 - 2. A breakfast meeting to share the results of the survey will be schedule for late March or early April.
 - ii. RCC Workforce Development Dean – invite proposed.
 - 1. Lisa Parks is the new Dean of Workforce Development.
 - 2. Lisa worked at Rogue Community College (RCC) for several years, then worked for Rogue Workforce Partnership.
 - 3. Inviting her to brief the Committee on the state of workforce development at RCC would be a good idea.
 - 4. Discussion of RCC’s connection to the workforce and potential needs. Healthcare programs are still a focus for the workforce and RCC. The

high schools also connect their programs to RCC. Cost-benefit challenges for the workforce and education. Connecting aging community with high school programs.

iii. Member Martin would like to see research on the Flying Lark as an economic driver.

iv. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Subcommittee

1. Member Gordon is looking for stakeholders including local governments, business community, religious organizations, schools, youth sports, and retirees. These stakeholders would be enlisted to build a framework to focus on intergenerational learning. The overarching goal of the Subcommittee is to get these different players talking and creating a basic framework to present to the City.

b. Government Liaisons

i. The City of Grants Pass is moving through whether to adopt the Strategic Plan. Spalding industrial plan is endorsed by Council. Member Richardson inquired about the benefits of the Strategic Plan. Councilor Lovelace shared it is a good opportunity to have discussion and hear from the various Committees and community. It also helps to build a budget.

ii. Continued regular communication with the County are top priority.

iii. The banner issue is still being discussed. The main issue behind the banner program is that ODOT is requiring an endorsement or sponsorship from a government entity and our local governments are figuring out how to address this.

iv. Marta Tarantsey of Business Oregon shared the Innovation Hub consultant has done some initial work in the discovery phase of the study and will now be moving into a more robust phase of discovery. Expect to see invitations for planning or focus groups on the effort.

v. Business Oregon provided support for the demolition of the old hospital on A Street and will be providing additional funding for Brownfield clean up. Business Oregon is adding a project management and three finance officers in our region to help with deal flow. They will be announcing a couple of deals shortly.

c. Items from Staff

i. Microloan program update – Revolving microloan for small business program through Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) should be providing a report soon. \$200,000 was initially funded by the City. They have given 13 loans for \$25,000-\$50,000 and continue to make the program available in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

d. Meeting recap and action items

i. Invite Lisa Parks, RCC Workforce Development Dean

ii. Invite Jason Schneider of Civic Possible to present on Innovation Hub study

iii. Airport Advisory Committee update

6) Items for Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting: Invite Lisa Parks, RCC Workforce Development Dean; Report on Airport presentation to County Commissioners.

7) Adjournment:

a. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: March 23, 2023

Minutes prepared by Dana Pearce, City Staff Liaison.