

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2021 at 3:00 pm
City Council Chambers

Committee Members:

Gene Merrill (Chair)
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair) by phone
Tripp Androy - late
Shauna Bland
Sam Engel – absent
Kenny Houck – late by phone
Josie Molloy
Colene Martin
Cameron Camp- by phone
Bob Schaller
Paul Lonquist- absent
Kim Dickson
Casey Alderson – by phone
Daniel Mancuso - late
Ruth Swain

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter – City Business Advocate
Brad Clark – CD Director
Darin Fowler County Commissioner – by phone
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction
Joel King – City Councilor
Curt Collins – City Council Liaison

Guests:

Marta Tarantsey – by phone
Sandy Novak
Jon Bowen
Barbara Acosta-Hong - by phone

1. **Roll Call-** Chair Merrill called meeting to order at 3:00 PM with quorum present
2. **Public Comment:** Marta Tarantsey with Business Oregon announced the second round of funding for Landlords and Tenants opened today through May 6th. May 10th SOU-SBDC restaurant toolkit webinar series.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of minutes from March 25, 2021

Motion

Member Martin moved and Member Bland seconded the motion to approve the minutes from March 25, 2021 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:
Committee Members: Schaller, Martin, Camp, Bland, Alderson, Dickson, Swain, Mancuso, Molloy and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.
Absent: Members Engel, Androy, Mancuso, Houck and Lonquist.
The motion passed.

4. **Work Session Items:**
 - a. **Grants Pass Airport**
 - Chair Merrill updated the committee on a recent presentation that was given to City Council regarding the airport funding and runway extension.
 - There will be an environmental assessment for the full 1500 ft extension of the runway even though the FAA has only approved a 700 ft runway extension.
 - Recommendation to City Council is to provide \$175K over a 4-year period.
 - County Commissioners are allocating \$150K per year for next five years.
 - Chair Merrill asked for a motion from the Committee.

Motion

Member Martin moved and Member Molloy seconded the motion for City Council to support the funding request from Airport Director Larry Graves for \$175,000 in increments of \$43,750 for the next four years. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members: Schaller, Martin, Camp, Bland, Alderson, Dickson, Swain, Mancuso, Molloy and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Engel, Androy, Mancuso, Houck and Lonquist. The motion passed.

b. American Rescue Plan

- Commissioner Fowler announced that the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to form a task force of eleven members including one member of the CEDC and several department heads at the County.
- The Steering Committee task force will compile all the recommendations based on the criteria from the Federal Government.
- The CEDC will be instrumental in making recommendations to the task force.
- The County priorities are Business Aid, Broadband, and a Public Health Building.
- Equity and fairness for entire County.
- Commissioner Fowler advised that CEDC would make a recommendation/vote for a representative to serve on the task force.

c. Broadband County Infrastructure RFQ

- Chair Merrill asked the committee for input on the draft RFQ document that was provided to the committee.
- Discussion followed with several recommendations including;
 - Vendor neutrality needs to be specified in RFQ
 - Scope of work and outcome of what expectations are.
 - Valuable exercise of what the County is proposing is encouraging.
 - More project outcomes and project implementations
 - Action plan and realistic goals
 - Identify the need and then move forward with fix. This is an important step to move forward.
 - Suggestions for a two-step process may be needed.
 - It was mentioned that completion is an important step. When the need is identified, action needs to be followed through to complete the project.
 - Phases should be identified in the RFQ. Identify the need and then implementation.
 - Hunter representative Barbara Acosta-Hong informed the committee that Hunter is getting ready to install fiber to residential and would like to share plans with the committee.
 - Hunter has the fiber and infrastructure to work with committee.

d. Request from County Finance Director

- Chair Merrill discussed the topic of Business relief from the American Rescue Plan.
- Monetary help is a quick fix but may not be the answer or provide long term need.
- Workforce is identified as a critical need.
- Discussion of ideas were shared with pros and cons to economic recovery.

- Unemployment benefits were identified as a roadblock to getting people back to work (making more money staying at home).
- Marijuana farm workers were also affecting hospitality jobs.
- Find ways for high school students to connect with employers looking for workers.
- Childcare was also identified as a need that should be addressed.
- Transportation may also be a factor with jobs being filled.
- There are many businesses that need assistance and it needs to be identified by sector.
- Retaining talent with benefits and other incentives.
- Hospitality workforce training for high school students was mentioned.
- Training for employers on how to attract and maintain workforce.
- Paid apprenticeships.
- Policy problem vs Business model problem.
- There is some funding for COVID 19 CDBG for Cave Junction, but it is a short-term fix.
- Sectors have different needs and soft support costs. This needs to be a coordinated effort in implementation.
- There are State regulations that can hinder childcare. Sites are also limited. Need to identify available sites for childcare providers.
- RCC was mentioned as a conduit to help with childcare.
- High School is also a partner for training and after school opportunities.
- Circling back on conversation, what is the best use for utilizing the American Rescue Plan funds? That is the CEDC task to identify.
- Training with a grant incentive may be something to consider. SBDC would be a great partner along with IVCDO.

6. Information Sharing:

a. Items from Committee Members

- None

b. Items from Councilors and Commissioner

- None

c. Items from Staff

- None

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- a.** Innovation Hub/Youth Pathways

8. Adjournment:

- a.** Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm

Next scheduled meeting: May 27, 2021

Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.