

**COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2020 at 3:00 pm**  
**City Council Chambers**

**Committee Members:**

Gene Merrill (Chair)  
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair)  
Tripp Androy  
Shauna Bland  
Sam Engel- By phone  
Ron Goss- Absent  
Kenny Houck – By phone  
Josie Molloy  
Colene Martin  
Cameron Camp- Absent  
Julie Thomas- Absent  
Paul Lonquist- Absent  
Kim Dickson- Absent  
Vacant-Natural Resources  
Vacant- Tourism

**Government Liaisons:**

Susan Seereiter – City Business Advocate  
Darin Fowler – County Commissioner  
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction  
Dennis Roler – City Councilor  
Lora Glover  
Steven Sabel

**Guests:**

Jeff Houston  
Bob Schaller  
Linda Bradley  
Annie Sabel  
Marta Tarantsey (by phone)

**1. Roll Call**

- a. Chair Merrill officially opened meeting at 3:33 and took roll, 8 members present for a quorum. Technically difficulties with sound system and call in members created confusion

**2. Public Comment:**

- a. Annie Sabel introduced herself to the committee and expressed her interest in being considered for the vacant tourism seat on committee.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Approval of minutes from June 16, 2020.

**Motion**

**Member Androy moved and Member Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2020 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:**

**Committee Members: Molloy, Androy, Hawkins, Engel, Bland, Martin, and Chair Merrill.**

**“NAYS”: None. Abstain: Member Houck.**

**Absent: Members Goss, Lonquist, Dickson, Camp and Thomas. The motion passed.**

**4. Work Session Items:**

**a. LS Network Broadband Presentation**

- Jeff Houston gave an overview of the broadband company.
- Technical difficulty resulted and he was unable to share his computer to show the network of fiber throughout the Southern Oregon Region.

**b. Recommendation for future Board Members for an Independent Non-Profit DMO**

- Chair Merrill gave an overview of the last meeting where Jon Bowen spoke of an independent entity that would manage both tourism and economic development for the City and County.
- Discussion followed regarding the process that the City was embarking.

- Councilor Miles thought it would be beneficial to hire a consultant to facilitate the action and formulation of a non-profit board.
- Committee wanted more information of this proposed non-profit.
- Discussion followed regarding expansion of the whole County for the proposed non-profit board and Destination Management.
- Commissioner Fowler shared that currently it is city centric, however, the County would like to be considered.
- Member Molloy brought up the possibility of the chamber model.
- Councilor Roler thought it was a complicated process to develop a new structure.
- Member Androy did not agree that it was productive to add another board such as the one recommended.
- Chair Merrill reiterated that it was important for the committee to weigh in.
- Lora Glover explained more of a background of why this item was on the agenda to get input from the committee on who the influencers in the community would be beneficial to serve on the board.
- Steven Sabel gave the committee a recap of what staff has been doing in the absence of a DMO.
- Sabel went on to explain the proposed composition of what this board would look like as a founding board to hire a Director for the Tourism Board.
- Discussion followed about funding for tourism and how it is dispersed.
- Councilor Miles questioned if all of Josephine County would be included or just Grants Pass.
- It was mentioned that a unified committee/board would help navigate all of the events and activities that go on throughout the County.
- Member Engel brought up that as well as tourism, workforce housing would help the industry and businesses.
- Member Martin brought up that the process that the City is going through is cyclical.
- More discussion followed about funding for tourism and what is the best model to recommend.

c. DUE TO LOSING QUORUM OF A CALL-IN MEMBER NO FURTHER DECISIONS OR MOTIONS COULD MOVE FORWARD.

**Information Sharing: See above**

**5. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:**

- Economic Recovery planning
- Youth Labor Development
- RCC update
- Spalding update

**6. Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm

**Next scheduled meeting: TBD City Council Chambers**

*Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.*