

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2021 at 3:00 pm
Ridge Room 108

Committee Members:

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

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter – Business Advocate
Darin Fowler County Commissioner
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction - absent
Curt Collins – City Council Liaison

Guests:

Marta Tarantsey – Business OR -by phone
Brad Converse – Bradley Putter Manufacturer
John McCafferty – County IT Director

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Merrill called meeting to order at 3:05 with quorum present.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - Brad Converse introduced himself to the group and may apply to represent the Manufacturer sector. He gave a brief overview of his experience and dedication to the Grants Pass community. Owner and founder of Bradley Putter a small-scale manufacturer.
 - John McCafferty gave an overview on the RFQ process for a broadband consultant.
 - Marta Tarantsey mentioned a consultant working on broadband in Lane County who may have insight and willingness to share what their finding with the CEDC broadband sub-committee.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of minutes from June 24, 2021

Motion

Member Swain moved and Member Dickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from June 24, 2021 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:

Committee Members: Dickson, Swain, Mancuso, Engel, Houck, Molloy, Schaller, Vice Chair Hawkins and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.

Absent: Members Alderson, Camp, Martin, and Bland.

The motion passed.

4. **Work Session Items:**
 - a. **Broadband updates**

- John McCafferty, County IT Director, shared information about the recent RFQ where the County received three applications.
- The RFQ was closed out per legal council and now he is working on the RFP with the help of the sub-committee.
- McCafferty contacted Jackson County IT who is also working on a phased approach for data gathering and has hired one of the firms that applied to Josephine County RFQ.
- The company, HR Green, was also a top contender with the sub-committee.
- Discussion continued with the prospect of partnering with Jackson County.
- It was noted that broadband connectivity is a long process and works best with intergovernmental collaboration.
- More organizations need to be included such as library and schools.
- After much deliberation and consideration, the committee decided that if the collaboration was deemed appropriate with legal counsel, it would be the best direction to proceed.

Motion

Member Mancuso moved and Member Houck seconded the motion to recommend to County Commissioners to join forces with Jackson County for phase one data gathering and scope for broadband if acceptable with County Legal Department. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members: Dickson, Swain, Mancuso, Engel, Houck, Molloy, Schaller, Vice Chair Hawkins and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Alderson, Camp, Martin, and Bland. The motion passed.

b. Review committee applications and make recommendation to City Council

- Three applications were received for the Finance/Real Estate/Commercial lending committee member. Current member Colene Martin has re-applied for the position, other applicants included Ronald Gordon and Glenn Tiffany.
- Committee reviewed the applications and were unanimous that Colene Martin should be re-appointed.
- Members commented that Colene understands Grants Pass, she is involved with businesses and business owner and it makes good sense to keep the continuity.
- The committee would like to see Ron Gordon re-apply for the member at large position that was vacated by Paul Lonnquist.
- There was concern from some of the members that Glenn Tiffany did not live in Josephine County.

Motion

Member Houck moved and Member Dickson seconded the motion to recommend to City Council to re-appoint Colene Martin to continue representing the Finance/Real Estate position. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members: Dickson, Swain, Mancuso, Engel, Houck, Molloy, Schaller, Vice Chair Hawkins and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Alderson, Camp, Martin, and Bland. The motion passed.

6. Information Sharing:

a. Items from Committee Members

- Member Houck shared information about the JoCo relief small business assistance grant for businesses which runs through August 26th.
- Grant information and application is located on SOREDI website.

b. Items from Councilors and Commissioner

- Commissioner Fowler shared that the task force has implemented an application process for ARPA funds and have already received internal requests.
- Movement forward with GP Downs.
- Councilor Collins shared that discussions about ARPA are just getting started. May have a survey going out and would be looking for recommendations from CEDC.

c. Items from Staff

- Susan shared information about the upcoming workshop Monday, Council will be hearing a presentation from Jim Love regarding Downtown Master Plan.
- Council will also be discussing Caveman Plaza and Urban Renewal.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- a. Labor Market updates
- b. Youth Workforce Skills Development
- c. Spalding Update
- d. ODOT presentation

8. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm

Next scheduled meeting: August 26, 2021

Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.