

Monroe County Economic Development Committee Meeting April 12, 2018

Present: Sharon Folcey, Nodji Van Wychen, Dean Peterson, Mary Jo Hill, Pete Reichardt, Paul Harms, John Hendricks, Tonya Townsell, Tina Thompson, Steve Peterson, Jim Bialecki

The meeting was called to order in the conference room of the Wisconsin Transit Co. by Sharon Folcey at 9:05

Juston Wildes gave a summary of the business and back ground history of Wisconsin Transit Co.

Administrators Report: The need for affordable homes in the area.

Minutes Approval-Motion Nodji-second by Dean Peterson to approve the March 8th, 2018 minutes. Carried 10-0

Financials/Invoices: All invoices are paid up to date.

EDCT Coordinators Report:

Bike Me Fund Ride, Get more businesses involved. No Saturday night event. Involve Kendall and Wilton. 250 Out tourism budget and 250 out of the economic development committee budget. Friday night fish fry-Sparta American Legion. Gym grant applied to the Bike Me Fund Ride.

Motion made to approve the funds for the Bike Me Fund Ride by Dean Peterson Second by Nodji Van Wychen Motion carried 10-0

Lots of prospect meetings coming up. Busy time of year.

Business compensation-lots of feedback from the meeting. Lots of business were represented-12 businesses. Big business down to little business.

Construction companies-meeting with them to look at the housing situation in the county. Creating a housing cooperative-gated community without being gated. Different services that are offered if you don't want to do them yourselves. Buy into the cooperative. Cashton has stepped up and is interested in participating in the cooperative. If funding is available should check into it.

Town of Glendale has a website. Place where people can pay fees on line and get applications and materials.

Highway B Task force meeting Next week-Fox com Meeting on the April 17th- La Crosse Area Chamber office. Summit next week. Foxcom- Register your business with the products you carry-they want to shop local. Bowling tournament on April 21st.

Town of Sparta and Tomah joined together about the highway B project. General Avenue project-work along with the school building. DOT will have a lot to say about it. Two different townships are involved. Town of Sparta and Town of Angelo.

May 23rd 2018 Work Force Summit at the La Crosse center. Seven Rivers Alliance-25.00 per person as we are members. More information on the website.

May 2nd -Action planning session. Working with Hispanic workforce and get them into the higher work places for employment.

May 16th -Connect communities Workshop in Eau Claire at the Metro. Teaching you how to fund raise.

New child care center in Cashton-plans to build a new bank-which will include 3 retail stores. 2 Businesses looking at the feed mill.

Economic and Workforce profile website Monroe County. Comprehensive of the whole county and where growth is going to happen and where things are going to be happening. Map and tour-look for property that is for sale or find businesses. Click on the business and it will give you all the information on the business and give you directions to the business. Mobil app for it as well. In order to place property on there for sale-need to contact Steve Peterson and he can add it to the site. Jobs are posted on there as well. Someone would need to place them on there. Link to the Chamber Office website. Create a flyer to be able to send out and get businesses involved to add and update. Have Businesses be involved.

5 Minute Reports:

- Hidden Valley-no meeting this month
- ITBEC-Jim Ehram is back-Jackson County is a new member. Trempealeau County sent a representative to get them more involved. Moving the meetings around. Winter time in one place.
- Local History Room-Civil War program, Ghetto field day and attending Ft. McCoy
- Ft. McCoy: May 19th Armed forces Day. Changing of the Guard is at Armed Forces. Army concert- they will not be having this year. Comes down to money. Workshop-open house forum April 25th. Doing business with Ft. McCoy. Dealing with Contracts. Intimidated dealing with the military-keeping the contracts local. Fliers available.

Procurement workshop in the fall-working on getting it set up.

- Sparta Chamber: Sparta will be featured with the PBS Special.

Tour bus-City of Sparta will pay for new folders. Road Runner magazine for bike route and other routes in the area. Finished before the end of July.

- Tomah Chamber: New Mayor- April 17th meeting. 3rd gen moving along. Ground breaking at VA for Green homes. Redoing all the alley ways, starting on the east side moving to the west side.

Chamber-revisiting ATV/Snowmobile routes.

May 1st-Job fair. Fair 1-3 students. 330-6 public Kite fest-please hang up flyers. Golf outing on 25th at Hiawatha.

7 Rivers Alliance:

Tina's report:

- May 23rd - Healthcare Heroes – celebrating healthcare heroes at Winnebago Park
- August – Back to School BBQ – network with the teachers
- August 11th – Music on Milwaukee Street

Nodji - Warrens – celebrating Sesquicentennial – May 15th – 5pm, next to the Cranberry Discovery Center. Each organization is on their own for their own events. Creating a commemorative area through Labor Day.

- 2 flag poles – U.S. Flag; Wisconsin Flag
- Governor's proclamation
- Entertainment

July 4th Big Celebration

- Ho-Chunk dancers
- Hayward Lumberjack Show
- Historic cranberry equipment display
- Food and refreshments
- Fireworks on July 3rd
- Create a Sesquicentennial book that will be distributed a year from now

Paul Harms announced that he's moving from his GM's way at Three Bears Resort to the GM's position with new properties in the Stoughton-Oregon area. Move will take place in late May – June.

Next meeting at Century Foods International in Sparta on May 10th. Guidelines for the tour will accompany the agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Nodji, 2nd by Tina. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 10:51am.