**Mount Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

*The mission of the Mount Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board is to improve the quality of life and create a shared prosperity in our community by retaining, sustaining, and enhancing existing businesses and community organizations, attracting, and developing new businesses and improving and upgrading infrastructure.*

**Date: February 23, 2022**

**Location: 124 S Washington St, Mt Pulaski IL 62548**

**Meeting Type: Strategy**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order.

Andrew Meister called to order the regular meeting of the Mt Pulaski EDPB at 6:01pm

1. Deanna Howard conducted Roll call. The following persons were Present: Andrew Meister, Erin Wyss, Doug Johnson, Corey Leonard, Tracy Pulliam and Deanna Howard (Administrator)
2. Introduction of guests: Matt Bobell (Mayor), Bill Thomas, Tom Martin
3. Approved Minutes-to approve at next regular meeting

**Old Business**

1. Desired Outcomes Project Updates:
   1. 501c3 Corey reported that he has scheduled a phone appointment with Bates law firm to discuss the pros and cons of proceeding with the 501c3. It will be $200 and hour.

**New Business**

1. The purpose of this meeting is to bring the board members in focus with their mission and how to do that within the parameters of the bylaws and policies. Bill Thomas and Tom Martin have joined to guide the members.
   1. Bill is unsure what it is exactly that we need. Andrew would like to realign the boards focus and uphold the values of the board. The board has lost some of this due to turnover of board members. Andy comments that Bill is very essential for providing a different prospective on situations. Erin has been very confused about the differences between the Business District Fund and the Community Fund, and which is used for what. Tracy feels the board lacks organization and feels we need processes to track payments and who does what. Doug comments he has known Bill for years and he is excellent at giving focus and insight.
   2. Bill states that he is not sure where we will end up, but it will be somewhere good. He then handed out his original suggestions for the agenda format and policies he suggested to the original board members.

Bill instructs members to follow the agenda starting with the mission of the board. If the board does not agree with or understand the mission it will always struggle to make decisions.

Corey says it leads him to question “with-in what parameters” he questions the fairness of who gets how much and why. Mayor Bobell suggested that the quality of the project and how it benefits the community should be a deciding factor.

* 1. Bill questions the board if they could set an upfront limit. “You can apply for up to $” Andy doesn’t want to be confined by a predetermined limit and Corey agrees stating that there would funds not given when greatly needed if there is a set dollar amount. The mayor reminds that with the Business District Grants there are 11 items listed on the grant that are in accordance with the plan for the grants to be awarded. Tom Martin states that community funds are for the township and can be given to anyone in the township and that the business district funds are for the outlined business district. The mayor points out that exceptions are things like Frasier Park. It is outside the limits of the business district but is used by many in the community as well as many from outside the community.
  2. Bill asks the board if they could think farther ahead, that 90% of what they are doing is reacting. Waiting for grants/requests and struggling with decisions. Erin agrees that she feels like all they are doing is reacting since COVID. Andy says that the board prior to COVID was starting to be more proactive but with the onset of COVID and high turnover of members they lost focus on those things. Bill reminds the board the ENL donation is a set amount for a conservative estimate of 10 years and that only part of the cd is allocated to a future project.
  3. The discussion of grants quarterly was questioned. Doug feels the reason for quarterly is to be able to look at what grants are more deserving. Tom stated that when awarding grants write the explanation of why it is a fit and what will the benefit to the community be.
  4. Bill says he has witnessed the board doing an excellent job of reacting. That he was thrilled to hear Erin refer to the mission when discussing the Market on The Hill donation but that they are just sitting back and waiting for suggestions and only spending money when it is requested. He suggested looking at next year’s budget with a plan for future projects. Budget to your plan, don’t plan to your budget. Allocate x% to reactive work and x% for proactive work. Doug says the Day Care and Square Revitalization are current proactive projects. Bill suggests pulling a group of community members together to get more ideas for proactive projects. Andy remembers the topic of Sports Tourism in the past. With so many people coming into our town for sports what they see driving in and out of town is not very impressive. Erin states, “Proactively leading and reactively serving” Bill replies with “Serve, Lead and Prepare”

1. Next meeting March 2, 2022, 6 pm
2. Erin motioned to adjourn, and Tracy seconded the motion. Andrew called the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.