

Mount Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board

Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2018

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mount Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board was called to order at 6:31 on December 17, 2018 in MPCF office by Tom Martin.

Present

Tom Martin, Shaun Tyson, Tim Emrick, Renee Martin, Matt Bobell

Guests: Beth Sasse, Cindy Taylor, Allen Schaal

Absent: Hillary Cherry

Approval of Minutes

Forego minutes approval and review and approve in January.

Treasurers Report

There is a correction of Christmas Décor for the Hilltop Club number, change to \$2530.

Shaun Tyson moved to approve the treasurers report. Renee Martin seconded. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Committee Reports-

Business Development:

Great Scott Market in Winchester, Illinois is a food cooperative. It is located 25 minutes away from Jacksonville with a town population of 1700 people. Winchester is a mini grocery store with the essentials. This store has been open for 4 mos. And has a niche of craft beer and wine that can't be found anywhere else close.

They have a board of investors with a \$50 investment. They don't get dividends.

\$500 for a base investor.

\$5,000 Preferred investor that receives a 6% return on investment for the next 15 years and gets dividends.

All have same voting power.

Winchester raised \$86,000 of investments and used \$40,000 to fix building, plus equipment and start up costs.

Finding a supplier was a hard thing. Charlie from Lincoln IGA may be of interest and provide load sharing.

Tom Martin said that the EDPB couldn't do this all by their selves and need to get the Business Association involved.

Shaun suggested a steering committee to get this moving forward.

Beth Sasse and Cindy Taylor are here on behalf of a co-op child care center. Little Lambs daycare closed and there is a lack of options for childcare that help support the working families. An overall Logan County Co-op that could provide new jobs and new opportunities such as child care, fresh/local foods would be highly beneficial and would spur economic development in all communities. A co-op like this would be ran similar to an electric co-op. Individuals will join and can decide together on what they can open such as a day care, grocery store, etc. Need to talk to legal counsel. A grocery store could be their own co-op. Beth Sasse stated that they are still trying to figure the details out.

Mariah Anderson thinks that Mount Pulaski would be a great location for a food hub.

By developing a community co-op (MP, Atlanta, Chestnut) and have community support and investors, folks would want to see their investment grow.

Unlimited members may join the co-op.

John Conrad (lawyer that specializes in co-ops) will advise the EDPB for free.

Tom Martin said that we applied for a local foods grant. MP is a semi-finalist. Will do a 30-minute interview with the EPA over the phone. 50-60% of finalists get money. Would help get a food hub started.

Grants:

EDPB needs a form to present to the MP city council. Send to city clerk, Kelly Cowan, CC-Mayor Bobell, and she will put it on the agenda.

After city council approval for the grant requests, Cowan needs to contact the EDPB treasurer via email if grant was approved or not and also let the recipient know too.

Website:

The board is not happy with the overall work from Business Builders that created the website for the city of Mount Pulaski. They need to come meet with the board and review the website and make the necessary corrections at no additional charge. Board will shoot for a meet up date on January 15, 2019 with Business Builders. Tom Martin will reach out and get an update from BB.

Town Square Revitalization:

Dave Leonetti, architect, will help with master plan. May cost up to \$10,000.

State of Illinois owns the retaining wall around the Courthouse lawn. New lighting will be discussed along with new landscaping.

Saturday, March 16, 2019 there will be a strategic planning meeting for the community. An architect will come in and talk about the square revitalization.

Old Business

In order to have a community garden, the EDPB are interested in purchasing a piece of land located at 201 S. Lafayette from Roger Bohn. This purchase will coincide with the overall master square revitalization project. If purchased, the board can partner with Zion and get the community garden up and running. It would be a city owned property then. Bohn is asking \$14,000 for the piece of land.

Shaun Tyson moves to proceed forward with trying to purchase the land located at 201 S. Lafayette, currently owned by Roger Bohn, with a purchase price offer of \$8,000.

Tim Emrick seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Tom Martin-Yes, Shaun Tyson- Yes, Tim Emrick-Yes, Renee Martin-Yes.

Motion passed.

New Business

Tom wants to increase the EDPB to seven members instead of 4. Tim suggested that the ordinance will need to be changed to accommodate that many members. Tim also said that those new positions will be more involvement than just showing up to board meetings. Will have a February time frame for new members. Will need to advertise that applicants may now apply for the positions. New appointees need to be active. Jan. 8, 2019 ordinance is scheduled to be changed. Mayor Bobell needs to advertise by using paper flyers, new herald news, Lincoln daily news, Lincoln courier.

Will need to have Hillary Cherry's resignation notarized and then will accept her resignation from the board.

Tim Emrick is now a city alderman.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Bank investments for Wind Farm money. Different accounts?

Hiring a coordinator. Tom has been working with Bill Thomas on a job description for a part time position.

Community Grants criteria for grant applications.

Adjournment

Tim Emrick made a motion to adjourn. Shaun Tyson seconded it. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 by Tom Martin.

Minutes submitted by: Renee Martin (filling in for Hillary Cherry)