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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes

2/6/2019

Sidney Health Center

Randy Olson brought the meeting to order at 6:45 AM. Board members present were: Leif Anderson, Craig Averett, Bryce Baker, Jason Brothen, Pam Burman, Tami Christensen, Chip Gifford, Shane Gorder, Randy Olson, Blaine Rogers, Gary Schoepp, Alan Seigfreid, Cami Skinner, and Leslie Messer. Members absent were: Bill Henderson, Walt McNutt, Vanessa Pooch, Mark Rehbein, Don Steinbeisser and Heather VanGelder.

Craig moved to accept the past minutes, Cami seconded. Approved.

Financial Reports: The financials for January 19, compared to January 18 show a slight uptick with memberships coming in! The only out of the ordinary expenses in January are the new computers.

Gary moved to approve all financials. Tami Seconded. Approved.

Nomination Committee recommendations: The nominating committee met and brought forth two new candidates as 1-Year placements on the REDC Board. They are: Brandon Taylor, representing hotels, and Dave Garland, representing Sidney Sugars.

Tami moved to approve. Blaine seconded. Approved. They will begin March 6th. Welcome!

MEDA Spring Conference: Leslie reported that she is involved with organizing the MEDA conference happening in Glendive in May 2019. Leslie has been coordinating with several entities such as: Dawson Community College, Job Service, Glendive Chamber, Dawson County Economic Development, Eastern Plains EDC, SE MT EDC, Great Northern EDC. The event is titled: "Collaboration, Cooperation and Caviar".

Sidney Chamber Banquet and LYIP Award: Susan Joy contacted our office seeking background information and photos on the LYIP project. The project received one of the Chamber's awards this year. We are pleased to coordinate with the Chamber on this!

2019 Lobbying: Leslie applied to the Commissioner of Political Practices as a lobbyist for REDC this session. She also made sure that all of our required reports have been completed and submitted on time. Also, per the Executive Board recommendation, Leslie has reached out to the REDC board to ask if they would contribute extra funds to increase the lobbyist fund. The overall positive response has replenished the lobbyist fund. This fund is kept separate from the REDC operations and the membership dues as well.

2018 Annual reporting: Leslie has completed the 2018 Annual Report which is due to the Secretary of State each January. In addition, REDC's annual tax return, which is a 990, is due on February 15, 2019, so Leslie has compiled all of the required information, and dropped it off to Tara H. at CHMS to complete.

RLF Updates: The RLF Committee reviewed an application for an expanding business. The project was awarded, and once all of the paperwork has been completed, we will be able to release the information. The committee also considered restructuring of another loan. Furthermore, another one of our loans will be paid off this month.

Computers for the office: New computers are in! We are pleased to have them set up, networked, and properly working to improve the function of our office. Our deepest gratitude to Steinbeisser & Sons for the donation towards the new computers. Thank you very much!

SYP Updates:

- February's event will be held at the 1035 Brewery to highlight a new business in Sidney while reaching our network on 2/21. F is for Flavor is a quick and healthy cooking pick me up event.
- March will bring in the "So you want to be a board member" training. We are excited to partner with the Montana Non-Profit organization as well as the leadership class at the Chamber for this event!
- April will be the State of the State, County, City and Town event.
- Katie has received the application to host the Young Professionals statewide conference that will be held in 2020. Katie would like it to be here in Sidney! The application must be completed and submitted by Feb 15th. The SYP group has started to tackle fund raising, planning, etc.

City Report:

- The city has appointed Jason Shrader onto the Planning Board. The new water increases are being felt by some Sidney residents. The Boys & Girls Club remodel is near completion, and they are hoping to move in sometime in March. They are still fundraising to complete the project, and once finished, the club will be able to host 300 children.

County Report:

- The Commissioners are keeping a close eye on several bills this legislative session. They have remained in touch with Joel K and Steve H in regards to bills pertaining to prevailing wages. Shane stated that Loren and he will be in Helena next week.

Open Discussion:

- LYREC is closely monitoring several bills as well during the legislative session. They are also excited to be working on a new gas plant that will be constructed just across the MT border from Bainville. It will create several new jobs.
- The XL pipeline is continuing to move forward, albeit very, very slowly.
- Several board directors have heard that MDU (coal) may be closing. This is alarming to our entire economy.

Employee evaluations: Leslie was dismissed from the meeting. The board discussed both employees' annual evaluations, which were excellent. The board commended Katie and Leslie for their 2018 accomplishments. Cami moved to offer bonuses to the employees as the budget allows. Craig seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 6th, 2019

Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 26th, 2019