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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes 5/1/2019

Sidney Health Center

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

Tami moved to accept the past minutes, Walt seconded. Approved.

Financial Reports: Leslie reported that the lobbyist donations that we received are earmarked separately and reflected in the P & L. We attained two new members. No out of the ordinary expenses and the memberships continue to come in.

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

REDC Kiwanis presentation: Leslie gave an overview of the projects and activities that REDC has been working on to the Kiwanis club on April 4th.

Leadership Montana: Leslie participated in the board of governors' retreat on April 11-12 to finalize the strategic plan. She stated that LMT has performed above the projections and budgets. On April 25-26, Leslie attended the "Celebrate Montana" dinner and fundraiser. This is the alumni gathering and silent auction. The next day was the graduation ceremony for the 2019 Leadership class. Leslie stated that the selection committee has received the applications that are to be evaluated for the upcoming 2020 class. This process will commence during May, with final selections completed by June 1st.

On-going recruitment efforts: Leslie explained that our office has reached out to multiple retail vendors in an effort to address the gap that will be in our trade area once Shopko closes its doors. At this time, we have not heard back from the vendors; however we will follow up.

AmeriCorps presentation: Kali Godfried contacted Katie and requested that she make a presentation to the AmeriCorps volunteers. Her talk was broken down into segments with activities. For the conclusion, Katie challenged each volunteer to pitch a new business that they feel might work in Richland County. Kali was pleased with Katie's presentation and expertise.

Boys & Girls Club: Katie and Leslie attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new building. The event was well attended with food, music, and tours. This expanded club is a wonderful resource for our community.

Secretary of State tours: The scheduler for Corey Stapleton contacted our office for assistance in planning a recent tour of Sidney. Corey was able to tour: REDC office, B & B Builders, Richland Clerk & Recorder's Office, Sidney Sugars, Sidney High School, Blue Rock, Sidney Livestock sales ring, and Richland Aviation. In addition, Corey held a roundtable to gain a better understanding of the businesses needs here.

Senator Tester's Field Rep: With the retirement of Penny Zimmerman, Senator Tester hired Thomas Culver to be the Eastern MT representative. Tom is housed in Billings, and he traveled to Sidney to meet both Katie and Leslie. Tom was excited to learn what REDC does, and how we may be of assistance.

SYP Updates:

- April 11th was the State of the State, County, City and Town event. The event was held at the Elks Club
- The board has met and is planning the events to be held this upcoming year. The group has identified an opportunity to reach out to the new teachers that may be hired, at an August event.
- The MT YP finally notified Sidney that they had received two bids to consider for 2020 Young Professionals Summit, and the board selected Helena as the site. However; they were impressed by the bid that Sidney submitted, and are encouraging the group to apply for 2021.

Chamber changes: Gary reported that the past 30 days have been hectic at the chamber. Bill VanderWeele was hired as the Executive Director. Madina resigned, and so the board will be hiring a communications director. Several of the board directors will be leaving our area, and so the board will seek to fill those positions. Memberships are coming in, slightly ahead of where they were this time, last year.

City Report:

- Work has begun on getting the swimming pool ready for the season
- The council is closely watching for the oil & gas redistribution bill to be signed by the governor
- Paperwork has been completed for the traffic light at 12th Ave and Holly ST. Completion date will be two years out
- The baseball fields will get improvements, since there's no Babe Ruth this year

County Report:

- Shane is attending a meeting in Lewistown regarding federal land grazing, land use, and planning
- Shane suggested that Leslie attend the upcoming strategic meetings for the long range plan for the fair grounds
- Loren will be attending a meeting in White Sulphur Springs at end of May to learn about the Meagher County Stewardship Council
- Shane also suggested that Katie and Leslie should be attending tradeshow to possibly recruit businesses to our area

Open Discussion:

- Fairview is hosting their first showcase at Neu's SuperValu on May 7, from 5:30-7:30 PM
- Williston EDC is hosting their annual banquet and awards dinner on Friday, May 10, 6:00 PM CST
- American Legion is seeking to resume here in Sidney. All veterans interested should attend meeting on May 14, at the Elks Lodge

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 5th, 2019

Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 28th, 2019