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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes

6/5/2019

Sidney Health Center

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

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

Financial Reports: Leslie reported that the financials are doing ok. She reminded the board that the second half of the 2019 memberships are sent the first week of June and should start arriving soon. She also drew attention to a new restricted account for trainings. When the training is completed, the remaining funds will be returned to the county.

Blaine moved to approve all financials. Chip Seconded. Approved.

E-Waste From Office: Leslie reported that she went through the back room, and hauled 4 paper boxes full of E-Waste out to the public works shop. It has definitely cleared out the storage, as some of the CPU's were from 2006.

Neu's SuperValue business showcase: The Fairview Chamber of Commerce hosted a business showcase at Neu's SuperValue store! Leslie was pleased to be able to attend and see how much work Tim has put into his business. Pam added that the new updates to the store have made it thrive in Fairview! Congrats Tim!

Leadership Montana Selection Process: Leslie served as the chair for the selection committee in charge of picking the 2020 class of Leadership Montana. The committee had 30 people and saw just over 100 applications come in for the 42 spots in the class. Each application was read by 4 different committee members. The class has been picked and notification calls will begin this week. We are anxious to hear if Katie made the class.

Wool Cooperative: Two Lambert residents came in to discuss the possibility of opening a wool cooperative. Leslie is hoping to be able to utilize a "Growth Through Ag" grant, however the cycle does not begin until early July. Until then, the interested parties were advised to keep working on the business plan portion for the grant process.

Lions Presentation: Leslie was happy to do a presentation about REDC for the Lions!

Ag Meeting with Garth: Garth Kallevig contacted Leslie to help set up a meeting with Sidney Sugars and all Stockman Loan officers to discuss the changes in grower contracts and the future of beets in the Valley. Both Dave Garland and Leslie reported the meeting went well.

RLF Updates: With Jackie Washecheck's retiring, there was an opening on the RLF board. Tami Christensen expressed interest in joining that committee and the committee unanimously approved her! Welcome to the team Tami! The office is aware of 2 potential loan requests circling around.

Coal Country Coalition: Liz Ching reached out to our office with an opportunity to join the Coal County Coalition to aid coal impacted communities. On June 19th, Leslie will travel to Billings to attend a meeting to learn all about this group. As it is now, joining will not cost anything and we are hopeful this will be a good resource as coal is phased out of our community.

MEDA Spring Conference: Katie attended the conference in Glendive in May. One of the main focuses of the event was how to leverage area tourism into business development. Katie reported that she very much enjoyed the conference and is looking forward to attending another one.

SYP Updates:

- SYP has wrapped up for the year.
- After a lengthy call with MTYP, SYP is happy to announce that Sidney will be hosting the 2021 MTYP summit.
 - There are 7 SYP members attending this year's conference in Kalispell next week
 - They have been asked to do some minor marketing for the 2021 event without marketing more than Helena who is the 2020 host city.

City Report:

- The swimming pool opened this week!
- The nuisance ordinance is in some court hearing right now as the City attempts to clean up certain areas.
- The City approved an 8% health insurance coverage increase and a 1.5% pay increase for its employees
- Dysfunction junction on Lincoln will be a 5 way stop soon
- The Cenex sale and subsequent upgrade projects have created some community outcry that the council is listening to
- Family Dollar is STILL planning to open a store in Sidney with the full support of the City and City Council. The construction is awaiting building permits

County Report:

- Library remodel is underway and ahead of schedule
- The parking at the fairgrounds, streets in Fairview and streets in Savage will all be overlaid this summer
- Richland Park has a new manager and there will be new rules posted next week
 - The new manager has made some cool changes and the Commissioners encourage people to go check them out!
- MACO, Infrastructure Coalition, Tourism council, and Coal/Oil/Gas board all meet in the next 2 weeks
- The county set a 2% increase for the cost of living for their employees
- All departments are working on their preliminary budgets
- MDU has reached out to the County and City for an open meeting about rate increases
 - More Information to follow

Open Discussion:

- The Census bureau came to the office asking if we would serve as takers. Unfortunately, our office is unable to do so. Leslie invited any board members who are able to volunteer to help if they are able.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 10th, 2019

Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 25th, 2019