

# **Pike County Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes**

## **Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room**

**January 23, 2017**

### **Attendees**

Brenda Middendorf, Casey French, Max Middendorf, Jim Brown, Randy Bleich, Kaye Iftner, Shawn Rennecker, Blake Roderick, Robert Wood, Bill McCartney, Diane Vose, Jeff Hogge, Gary Camarano,

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Brown at 5:30pm. Meeting agenda and minutes were provided via email to members.

### **Minutes**

After review, Kaye Iftner made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Robert Wood , second. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

Brenda Middendorf summarized the financial report in the absence of Jim Sheppard.. Balance sheet as of January 20, 2017: Total Assets and Liability & Equity \$44,675.32. Profit & Loss Dec. 27 – January 20, 2017 Income: membership dues and program service fees \$2,125.00. Total expenses: \$1,308.61. Net Ordinary Income -\$816.39. Randy Bleich made the motion to review the financial report and place on file, Casey French second. Motion carried.

### **Director's Report**

Interim Director Brenda Middendorf reviewed the director's report. The meeting was then turned over to Gary Camarano to focus on updating the CEDS plan and creating a marketing plan for PCEDC.

### **Strategic Planning Notes**

Marketing consultant Gary Camarano reviewed his notes from the November and December meetings. He commented on an article that Shawn Rennecker had forwarded about St. Charles Mo., hosting a job fair in Effingham, IL, because they could not find work force candidates in the St. Charles area and are using the marketing ploy of reaching out to persons who are bored with rural life and want the excitement of a more metro area.

Camarano also mentioned a new online soft skills program, Wonderluc, that he will pursue further to find out the costs of participating. It could possibly further our efforts in training a workforce.

He also discussed more in depth the option of creating a film location and the benefits that could produce. He suggested we pursue becoming a film ready community, which would include determining what permits would be needed and develop a Location book to market to interested movie producers that work through the Illinois Film Office. He felt we have many unique attributes we could market.

Camarano also proposed finding a successful agritourism site and taking a field trip to see what they do.

Another option would be to pursue activities at the City Lake. One example would be to create a diving site. Suggestion was to possibly visit Crystal Lake 3 Oaks Recreation Area for ideas of how to develop the city lake .

Another option would be to follow up on the Shark Tank that was discussed at the previous meeting. Gary reference Roger Royce who connects promising startups with markets, financiers and partners. The RoyseLaw AgTech Innovation Network hosts Conferences devoted to AgTech, as well as demo days, meetings and pitch sessions for select start-up companies with farmers, ag and food companies, and investors.

### **Chairman's Comments**

Jim reported the new gas station would be coming sometime soon. Chris Niemann has told him they purchased the Maya restaurant building. Niemann's has a new store model with a "Harvest Market" theme which emphasizes the interest in locally grown food. He will be visiting a new store with the new theme of Harvest Market this week.

### **Member Updates & Comments**

Kaye reported the Chamber Annual Meeting would be March 28<sup>th</sup>. U S Cellular will be hosting a Business After Hours on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Pike CEO Pike Night Out has been rescheduled for Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Blake reviewed inauguration events and said Farm Bureau still has a room to rent.

Randy Bleich stated the sale of the grain elevator has been postponed until mid- February.

Bill McCartney reported that he is working with a couple of inquiries of new businesses. He is also working with ACE Hardware and possibly a new restaurant. He reported the waste water plant has been updated.

Diane Vose reported that the JWCC Southwestern facility is off to a good start with remodeling moving forward. The Capital Campaign continues and they plan to be open for Fall, 2017.

Brenda reported that the CEDS Committee for Pike County would be meeting on Thursday in the Farm Bureau Auditorium. She also reported PCEDC would be cosponsoring with JWCC a Cyber Attack Workshop on Feb. 9.

### **Adjournment**

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Max Middendorf, second by Casey French. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brenda Middendorf, substituting for Karrie Spann.

Next Executive Board Meeting: February 27 2017, Pike County Farm Bureau building.