

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2021 at 3:00 pm
City Council Chambers TEAMS Virtual meeting

Committee Members:

Gene Merrill (Chair)
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair) absent
Tripp Androy
Shauna Bland - absent
Sam Engel – absent
Kenny Houck – late
Josie Molloy
Colene Martin
Cameron Camp- Absent
Bob Schaller
Paul Lonquist
Kim Dickson
Casey Alderson - absent
Daniel Mancuso
Ruth Swain

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter – City Business Advocate
Darin Fowler County Commissioner
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction
Joel King – City Councilor
Jason Canady

Guests:

Marta Tarantsey
Sandy Novak
Tamra Martin
Colleen Padilla
Cathy Kemper Pelle

1. **Roll Call-** Chair Merrill called meeting to order at 3:03 PM with quorum present
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of minutes from February 25, 2021

Motion

Member Androy moved and Member Schaller seconded the motion to approve the minutes from January 28, 2021 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:
Committee Members: Schaller, Martin, Androy, Bland, Lonquist, Dickson, Swain, Mancuso, Houck and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.
Absent: Members Engel, Alderson, Camp, Hawkins and Bland.
The motion passed.

4. **Work Session Items:**
 - a. **RCC update**
 - Cathy Kemper Pelle shared plans of infrastructure improvements and new plans for the new Science Building.
 - Oregon State University extension service will be housed on Redwood campus. Great opportunity for partnerships with natural resources and agriculture.
 - Kerby Belt building being housed by Boys and Girls Club. Win-win
 - Ceramics will be moved to main campus. Ester Bristol building downtown is being sold.
 - Chair Merrill asked about campus housing. Long term master plan allows for that, they need to find a partnership for that too.

b. Public Works

- Jason Canady shared several project highlights.
- Highway 199 looping project will install 16 in water main from Allen Creek Rd to Hubbard Lane, very crucial to the area. Two phases.
- Beacon Drive water line is a great partnership between the City of Grants Pass and County Public Works.
- Beacon Drive will be widened and allow for one sided sidewalk.
- This will be a huge improvement to the area.
- I-5 installing water line on Scoville to allow for opening new development.
- Mill Street sewer project will upsize the capacity along with water treatment plant construction.
- Local workforce utilization plan for the water plant.

c. Broadband subcommittee updates

- Commissioner Fowler shared County will be spearheading the effort to bring broadband to Josephine County. Working on an RFP to get things moving.
- Colleen Padilla mentioned that EDA may also be able to help with technical assistance and or other opportunities.
- County will be referring to the strategic plan that was provided to the broadband sub-committee from John Irwin consultant.
- There is assessment data that has been collected by other entities that needs to be compiled and added to a link on the Josephine County website.

6. Information Sharing:

a. Items from Committee Members

- Members questioned about the Grants Pass airport and there will be an update at the next meeting.

b. Items from Councilors and Commissioner

- Commissioner Fowler shared that County is starting to formulate how to utilize the American Rescue Act federal money. Business aide is one of the priorities, Broadband which is moving forward and the Health Department relocation. Dimmick property could then be transformed to residential use.
- Merlin industrial park needs a solution for sewer issues.
- Councilor King shared that the parklets are back.

c. Items from Staff

- Seeking input from committee on URA project descriptions.
- Marta Tarantsey shared there will be Landlord/Tenant rent relief coming soon in two rounds. Free webinars for restaurants with SOU SBDC.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- a. Innovation Hub/Youth Pathways**

8. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm**

Next scheduled meeting: May 27, 2021

Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.