

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2021 at 3:00 pm
Ridge Room 108

Committee Members:

Gene Merrill (Chair) Late
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair)
Vacant
Shauna Bland – by phone
Sam Engel – by phone
Kenny Houck – by phone
Josie Molloy – by phone
Colene Martin – by phone
Cameron Camp – by phone
Bob Schaller
Vacant
Kim Dickson - absent
Casey Alderson – absent
Daniel Mancuso
Ruth Swain - absent

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter – Business Advocate
Darin Fowler County Commissioner
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction
Curt Collins – City Council Liaison
Brad Clark – CD Director

Guests:

Marta Tarantsey – Business Oregon
Jon Bowen
Ron Gordon

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Merrill was running late so Susan Seereiter took roll call. Meeting started at 3:09 pm when Chair arrived

2. **Public Comment:**

- Jon Bowen talked about an idea for housing. The situation is affecting economic development. Jon spoke of the construction excise tax. He claimed the limit of supply was raising the housing cost and wanted to share an idea about linking a “fee” on the sale of homes since there is such a price war going on. Perhaps approaching real estate industry offering .25% or .5% from sales proceeds to an affordable housing fund. Jon is requesting the committee think about this idea.
- Ron Gordon introduced himself as an applicant for member at large. Has a bachelor’s degree in economics and is a financial advisor for Edward Jones. Lives in community and invested in community.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Approval of minutes from July 22, 2021.

Motion

**Member Houck moved and Member Schaller seconded the motion to approve the minutes from July 22, 2021, as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:
Committee Members: Camp, Bland, Mancuso, Martin, Engel, Houck, Molloy, Schaller,
Vice Chair Hawkins and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.
Absent: Members Alderson, Dickson and Swain.
The motion passed.**

4. **Work Session Items:**

a. **Committee Applications**

- Bradley Converse applied for the manufacturer position.

Motion

**Member Houck moved and Member Mancuso seconded the motion to recommend to City Council Bradley Converse for the Manufacturer Committee position. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members: Camp, Bland, Mancuso, Martin, Engel, Houck, Molloy, Schaller, Vice Chair Hawkins and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Alderson, Dickson and Swain.
The motion passed.**

- There were three applicants who applied for member at large: Cambrie Nelson, Ron Gordon and Glenn Tiffany.
- After reviewing all three of the applications, and discussion the committee came up with Ron Gordon as the candidate to recommend.

Motion

**Member Martin moved and Member Houck seconded the motion to recommend to City Council Ron Gordon for the Member at Large position. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members: Camp, Bland, Mancuso, Martin, Engel, Houck, Molloy, Schaller, Vice Chair Hawkins and Chair Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Alderson, Dickson and Swain.
The motion passed.**

b. ARPA Task Force update

- Commissioner Fowler shared that the task force has already received 30 strong applications. JoCo is advertising in local publications to get the word out. They are looking for community benefit, jobs and infrastructure that will last.
- Currently the project totals are at \$16 million. Still vetting before recommendations go to the County Commissioners.
- Councilor Miles expressed great cooperation and collaboration within the task force, and she is impressed with the projects coming forward.
- Colene Martin asked the committee for recommendations of how to lay the ground work for job creation for sustainability.
- The City Manager and Council President have been attending the meetings and anticipate an opportunity for collaboration on potential projects.

c. Update on JoCo small business relief grants

- Member Houck shared information about the JoCo relief small business assistance grant for businesses ended this afternoon with.
- Open for six weeks closed today.
- Approximately 70 applicants for the small businesses with 0-5 employees.

d. Broadband sub-committee update

- Commissioners voted to join Jackson County for a scoping and mapping contract; 20K each to HB Green Company of BB.

6. Information Sharing:

a. Items from Committee Members

- Marta from Business Oregon shared upcoming events and has complimentary tickets to a summit for Infrastructure and Broadband.
- Josephine County fairgrounds hosting comic con and anime event.
- Kenny Houck shared that he is stepping down from the Executive Director position at IVCDO and will now be a private contractor. He still plans to work part time at RCC-SBDC.
- Member Mancuso thought Jon Bowen's recommendation was something to pursue and look into.

b. Items from Councilors and Commissioner

- Commissioner Fowler also found the idea of Jon Bowen's something to see if it bears any merit.
- Councilor Collins shared that homelessness is still a Council discussion. Also exploring grants and how to sustain them.
- Councilor Miles shared that Council was having a special meeting to discuss Labor Day festival. Concern about COVID.
- Councilor Miles shared her concern and recommendations on how to address Covid and variants and the seriousness of the situation.

c. Items from Staff

- Susan shared that next month the Chamber would not be available.
- After discussion the committee agreed to a virtual-only meeting.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- a. Labor Market updates
- b. ARPA funds - RCC and school districts
- c. Youth Workforce Skills Development
- d. Spalding update
- e. ODOT presentation

8. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

Next scheduled meeting: September 23, 2021, virtual-only request by committee

Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.