



WHITESIDE COUNTY
ENTERPRISE ZONE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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Approved Minutes

**MINUTES WHITESIDE COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY COMMITTEE (CEDS)
April 8, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Russell called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. in the Law Enforcement Center, County Board Room, 400 North Cherry Street, Morrison, IL.

ATTENDANCE

Bud Thompson, Steve Brenner, Barry Dykhuizen, Kim Ewoldsen, Stan Mitick, Russ Renner, Skip Lee, Ed Cannon; new city administrator, Steve Wilkins, Theresa Wittenauer, Larry Russell, Diane Bausman, Paul Engwall, Glen Kuhlemier, Jim Duffy, Everett Pannier, Heather Bennett, Scott Shumard, Randy Balk; new RFDCD Director, Betty Steinert and Sandy Prescott, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Larry Russell asked for a motion to approve the distributed October 8, 2013 minutes. Bud Thompson asked for one correction, that the word "building" be changed to "buildings" in the Prophetstown report. Bill Wescott made a motion to approve the amended minutes, with a seconded by Bud Thompson. Motion carried, unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

IKE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The IKE Comprehensive Planning is in its final stages. A draft will be presented to the public on May 6th at the Ryberg Auditorium in Sterling and May 8th at the Odell Public Library Community Center. Both meetings are set at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Steinert encouraged everyone to attend and share their input.

ROCK RIVER TRAIL

Ms. Steinert gave the update from the "Synergies and Cooperation in the Lower Rock River Valley" handout. Diane Bausman informed that the group is now meeting in Lyndon on Thursdays. She will get the information to Ms. Steinert.

BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL PLANNING & IFIBER UPDATES

Theresa Wittenauer reported that they are looking at who is on, who is using it and completing some patches under construction. They are now in the planning process for the private sector. There are 96 private fibers available and 48 available for public use. Energy rebates need to be in by April 15, 2014 with work completed by May 31st. BHRP will be releasing their updated five year plan for EDA and Economic Development Guide soon. Both will be posted on their web site for review

ROCK FALLS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Randy Balk reported that with his new job as director things are off to a wonderful start. It is now day two on the new job as Director of the RFDCD and then turned the report over to Mayor Bill Wescott! Mayor Wescott shared that the Whiskey Barrel Saloon is finishing up their project and is hoping to open soon, Thai restaurant project is almost complete, Rock Falls McDonald's plans to completely replace their building on the present site and the former Wonder Bread Store building is to become an auto detail shop. The city of Rock Falls will soon be making an announcement on the Riverfront project. On the event side of things there will be a one day war-birds event on September 20th at the Whiteside County Airport, this year's Bridge to Community events will coincide with the Fiesta Days. The

Hennepin Canal Committee and the Trails Committee have combined and the city is still working on the annexation of the canal. Some vacant city properties will become prairie plots with plantings this spring. This should lower the city maintenance work load because of keeping those properties mowed.

Mayor Wescott welcomed Randy to the RFCDC and said that they will miss Sandy Henrekin and appreciate all of the work she has done for the City of Rock Falls. He also wishes her and her husband, Jim well in their retirement.

MORRISON AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mayor Pannier introduced Morrison's new City Administrator, Barry Dykhuizen. Mayor Pannier gave an update on the city's \$20-23M waste water treatment plant. We are hoping to start construction the spring of 2015 with completion in 2016. Windsor Manor is under construction and will have 49 assisted living units with 10 of the 49 being a memory unit, hopes are they will be open this July, Coz-E Corner is open, Resthove Retirement and Nursing Home is beginning Phase II of their additions and remodeling, the ball diamonds are all scheduled for the 2014 season including 18 college ball tournaments and Donnybrook Café is almost ready to open.

NEW BUSINESS

ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

Bud Thompson reported that the buildings destroyed by fire in downtown Prophetstown, do not have any prospects yet.

Russell Renner, Whiteside County Highway Department shared information on the Highway Departments 100th Anniversary open house scheduled for May 9, 2014 2-4 p.m.

Stan Mitick, Friends of the Park, reported that the bike/walking trail phase I is complete and they are beginning to work on phase II. Due to donations, they are able to look at some landscaping. June 19th's Grand opening will coincide with the GITAP riders to be in Morrison for the fifth time.

Heather Bennett reported that they will be having a "Lunch N Learn" on April 23rd 11a.m.-1 p.m. at the Triple Play in Fulton, hazardous waste pickup will be held on April 26th annual Dutch Days will be on May 2&3, 2004 and Crumpets restaurant, in the downtown, is doing very well.

Diane Bausman, Blackhawk Waterways, CVB, shared that 40,000 visitors guides were distributed and placed in the Oasis and in information centers, tourism website received the "Illinois Governor's Award for Excellence", annual dinner is set for August 21st in Dixon, grant program for business partners has all been allocated and they hope to be able to offer it again. As always, please advise Diane of your community happenings and they will get them posted on the web site.

Ed Cannon, City Administrator is getting familiar with the area and is working with Heather Bennett on marketing brochures; the Eastern part of town by the strip mall and cousins subs is seeing possible new development, working on updating the L.O.I.S. system with properties in Fulton, of the New 118 acres in the industrial park, 14 acres have been sold to Agri King.

Kim Ewoldsen, Sterling Area Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting a "Small Business Boot Camp" on June 5th at Sauk Valley Community College, 4th Friday's program is from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. this year and is being re-vamped to have an all-day local shop event to bring in more visitors.

Steve Brenner gave an update on the Sterling Park Districts Trail from Dillon Home to Sinnissippi Park. Completion is hoped for by mid-summer.

Steve Wilkins, IDOT Communications Liaison, shared that if anyone is having a tough time getting to the right contact person(s); he is an excellent resource and is willing to guide you to the right person. The report on pothole patching was released yesterday and everyone is listed to receive assistance.

Jim Duffy, Whiteside County Board Chairman, shared that the Whiteside County Comprehensive Plan will be having public meetings on May 6th and 8th as it nears completion. He encouraged everyone to attend one or both of these meetings. The plan is scheduled to come before the county board in June for action in July.

Paul Engwall reported Lyndon has been working on the broken water mains because of the cold weather; the picturesque Lyndon Bridge is in need of new planks; the old Congregational Church is now being rented for meeting space.

Glen Kuhlemier attended the tourism conference in Chicago and got his picture taken with Bill Curtis "The Voice of Illinois Tourism". He also encouraged everyone to attend the public meetings for the Whiteside County Comprehensive Plan.

Betty Steinert shared that the Enterprise Zone will be applying for a new Enterprise Zone next year. Published application is not available yet. Betty stated that now maybe the time to be looking for funding to update the Greenways and Trails Plan, because of Riverfront planning on both sides.

Larry Russell, Fulton Mayor, says the "Blessing of the Bikes" will be June 1st. It usually brings anywhere from 500 to 600 motorcycles to Fulton. Our new Nature Center is so popular we need to put in a bus turn around at that location.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bud Thompson. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.