



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting

8 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Committee members present: Kyle Fleming, Jim Hoskins, Jeff Poe and Mark Werner

Others present: Blake Benson, Becky Gray, Daron Hall and Henry Menghini

Additions to the agenda: None.

Consent calendar: Chairman Mark Werner began by asking for discussion regarding the minutes from the March 4, 2015 meeting. There was no discussion.

MOTION: Werner asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion was made and seconded. All carried, motion approved.

New business:

KDOT transload search

Blake Benson announced that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is considering sites for a transload facility. Transloading is the process of transferring a shipment from one mode of transportation to another, i.e. rail to truck. This would not only make it easier for Kansas businesses to import goods and materials, it would increase the number of Kansas-made products being exported to other states and countries. Benson reported the search was just beginning, but that Pittsburg was on the long list of communities being considered. Benson will submit four sites for KDOT's consideration and expects the long list to be shortened by early summer. Following multiple questionnaires, KDOT will then likely visit the proposed sites around the state in person. EDAC member Pat Ceden and other representatives of Watco have also been involved in the process.

Housing development incentives

Chairman Werner introduced Becky Gray, the city's new director of housing and community development. City Manager Daron Hall outlined some of Gray's responsibilities, which will include utilizing the city's recent housing study to develop a housing development strategy. After Gray provided a synopsis of the housing study, much discussion focused on why the majority of those working in Pittsburg elect to live outside the city. Hall cited a commuter study which showed it to be considerably more expensive to live in Carl Junction or Joplin, Missouri, and commute to Pittsburg. This points to a gap in Pittsburg's moderate to upper-income housing stock.

Hall detailed an upcoming land swap with Pittsburg State University that could yield land attractive for housing development. EDAC members then discussed the Revolving Loan Fund's role as the city looks to spur housing development. Werner recalled the RLF being tapped to offer development incentives during a similar housing effort in the 1990's. Werner reported these efforts were extremely successful in developing the housing south of Via Christi Hospital.

After much discussion, EDAC members felt that the RLF should be utilized to help with the housing effort and will await a recommendation from city staff.

EDAC appointment

Benson presented the name of Brian Pinamonti, owner of Pinamonti Physical Therapy, to fill the unexpired EDAC term formerly held by Dr. Brad Hodson, who recently took employment in Joplin.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the city commission that Brian Pinamonti be appointed to fill the unexpired EDAC term of Dr. Brad Hodson. All carried, motion approved.

Project updates

In the interest of time, Benson will provide a project update at the May 6, 2015, meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Benson