

PCEDA Board Meeting Minutes - May 10, 2018

Attendance: Marti Roberts, Brenda Watson, Shawna Weller, Mike Lawler, Christie Young, Greg Gordon, Paul Rudy, Patti McLaughlin, Duane Hertzler, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Russ Hoover, Jim Fuller, Frank Campbell, John Gerner, Rich Pluta, June Reisinger, Derek Whitesel, Michelle Jones, Jason Finnerty

Excused Absence: Emery Yoder

Absent:

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Chair Marti Roberts at 8:01 a.m.

Public Comment:

Jason Finnerty (TCPC) The county's Planning Commission has received 37 land development applications so far this year (8 more than last month). One application for the Karns building near New Bloomfield to add two new tenant spaces. Mr. Finnerty met with the Watts Township BOS during one of their recent meetings regarding the US11/15 safety study currently underway – Supervisors will work with TCPC regarding access management issues, including trying to limit driveways, etc.

Secretary's report:

Minutes of the April 12, 2018 Board meeting were distributed. Patti McLauhlin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Kevin Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. No changes, motion carried.

Bylaws review: A copy of proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Perry County Economic Development Authority had previously been distributed to all Board members. Frank Campbell had submitted a few grammatical changes, which were discussed as follows:

- Section 2-02 – the word “qualified” in the fourth line of this section should be “qualified”.
- Section 3-06 – the next to last line reads “may issue the notice...”, should it read “shall”? Following discussion, it was agreed that the need to issue a meeting notice was provisional and the sentence would be left as written
- Section 5-03 – should the words “from any” be inserted after the word “excluded” in line 5? It was agreed that this change would be made.
- Section 5-04 – the last sentence in this section states that payments in excess of \$500 need to be signed by two officers of the Authority, while Section 4-04 provides a more detailed discussion of how all payments are to be handled – should this section be expanded to include all payments as discussed in Section 4-04 or the last line in Section 5-04 deleted. It was decided that deleting the last sentence in Section 5-04 was the best course of action.
- Section 5-07 – this section states that “interested PCEDA members may be counted in determining a quorum of a meeting of the Authority which authorizes a contract or transaction. That contract or transaction needs to be approved by two thirds of the PCEDA members. Suggest removing the word “a” or adding the word “vote” after the 2/3 in the second to last line. It was decided to add the word “vote” as suggested.
- Section 6-01 – this section states that votes by “electronic means” can be accomplished if authorized by the Executive Board. This is contrary to the state's Sunshine Law. It was agreed to delete all the wording in this section following the word “purpose” in the first sentence of this section.

Kevin Fitzpatrick made a motion to approve the revised by laws as presented and revised during the meeting. Christie Young seconded that motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the seventeen Board members present at the meeting. John Gerner was commended for his work.

Treasurer's Report:

Russ Hoover presented the Treasurer's report which had previously been distributed to all Board members and reflects a current bank balance of \$48,171. Patti McLaughlin made a motion to accept the report, Paul Rudy seconded that motion. Motion carried.

Chair Report:

Marti Roberts reported that both grant request packages were submitted. 33 letters of support for the RBDG grant were received ranging from political, government and businesses leaders. She advised that both grant programs are very competitive. Some items we included in the proposed description of work included natural gas discussion meetings, business plan development work with local businesses and opioid roundtables and funding for the branding effort.

The Local Food Promotion Program grant request included a sample quote from a consultant. Federal Guidelines state that we must seek other bids if we win the grant.

The branding study will reconvene Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday May 21-23. The Steering Committee will meet at 9 a.m. Monday, then we will host branding sessions with Farmers (at 10:30), Community Leaders (at 12), Tourism/Destinations (at 2), Youth (at 3:30) and a Public Meeting at 5:30. On Tuesday, we will host a session with Small Businesses at 8:30 a.m. The small group meetings will be held at the PCEDA office, while the Public Meeting will be held in the New Bloomfield Council Chambers. The consultants will work on the concepts and deliverables and present its recommendations to the Steering Committee at 2p.m. on Wednesday.

Old Business:

June Reisinger noted previous discussions about establishing a 501(c)3 foundation and that she is continuing to do research on this issue. Marti Roberts recommended that June convene a meeting of her ad hoc group to continue researching the matter.

Christie Young recommended that the PCEDA give the County Commissioners an update of its work.

Frank Campbell presented a draft letter of support for the proposed KOZ zone to go to the Newport School District. He noted we already voted to endorse the program and suggested we approved this additional letter to school board president and superintendent. The school board meeting is June 12 at 7pm. John Gerner made a motion to send the letter, Russ Hoover seconded the motion. Christie Young asked if there was any use in asking the Susquenita School Board to reconsider its past denial of the KOZ proposal in their district. John Gerner discussed his assessment, which assessed a tax revenue impact which was approximately \$15,000 a year in potential revenue that wouldn't be realized for that ten years. Conclusion was not to revisit Susquenita. Discussion followed about the program merits. Motion carried.

Kevin Fitzpatrick mentioned that Mary Kuna told him she's accepting a position in Wilkes Barre, so she's unlikely to be available for a Board Development session.

It was announced that the next Farm Fest planning meeting will be held on May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Roberts Farm.

New Business: Michelle discussed the Return on Environment event set for May 24.

Adjourn: Christie Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rich Pluta seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.