

Minutes January 2018

Called to order at 8:05 a.m.

In attendance: Frank, Russ, Paul, Kevin, Derick, Jim Fuller, Dawn Lowe, Steve Peters, Brenda Watson, Christy Young, Morgan, Rich, June, Marti, Michelle, guests: Jason Finnerty

Absent: Patti and John

Public Comment: Jason discussed the 11 developments proposed so far. There is a new director for Tri-County, solid background in planning. Jason working on annual report. Ended 2017 with 90 applications, higher than last few years, about ¾ have been approved. Annual outreach sessions (24) have been scheduled. Will resume meeting with John monthly, and Michelle will post to board when that is scheduled. Tri-County sent letter of support for Fort Indiantown Gap as a Sentinel Landscape. Main concern is light pollution, could be concern in Marysville/322.

Modified Agenda: Annual Organizational Meeting. Russ motioned to renew Board of Director members June Reisinger, Rich Pluta and John Gerner each for 5 year terms. Kevin 2nd Motion carried.

Secretary Report: Frank presented minutes from December for approval. Kevin motioned, June 2nd. Motion carried. Minutes have been posted.

Treasurer Report: Russ presented the expenses primarily payroll and office expense. Frank motioned, Paul 2nd. Marti commented about difference between budgets (presented publicly to commissioners' vs board vote in December). Budget was modified to reflect higher balance forward. No further discussion. Motion carried. Christy moved to submit invoice for full amount to County of Perry. Frank 2nd. Discussion regarding the need to have a significant cash balance that will be used as EDA's match for upcoming grant applications. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Officer Nominations: June motioned to nominate the following for slate of 2018 officers:

- Martha Roberts, Chair
- Morgan Tressler, Vice Chair
- John Gerner, Secretary
- Russ Hoover, Treasurer
- Patti McLaughlin, Ass't Secretary/Treasurer
- Frank Campbell, At Large
- Rich Pluta, At Large

Steve 2nd. Motion carried. Discussion regarding all Board Members to track their volunteer hours. These hours can be used as donation for grants, etc. Michelle will amend sign in sheet by adding columns for tracking mileage and monthly hours.

Bylaws update. John prepared a rough draft which is on Dropbox. Additional updates are necessary. Goal for completion by the first quarter

Objective to fill open board seats by March meeting. There are more candidates than open seats. Visits with candidates will be scheduled the week of January 22nd. June has volunteered to draft 4 or 5 open questions for discussion. Topics from the PSU economic assessment will also be incorporated.

Fulfilling 2018 Initiatives:

- One stop shop: Morgan will chair an Ad Hoc committee to gather the information/software, etc. for EDA to have available for public use. Training sessions will also be coordinated with the Chamber on various business topics. Rich discussed a marketing series the Chamber is organizing and suggested that the EDA can cohost at no cost.
- Education: Frank will chair Ad Hoc Education Committee that will to continue work with school districts. Michelle will send a blog post to businesses about school district internship program.
- Branding identity study, part two. It will make the most sense to continue with Arnot Muldrow, However we will solicit other bids.
- Grant Opportunities. State Farm grant announcement comes by the end of 1st quarter. There are at least 2 other USDA grants applicable to the EDA's goals which we plan to apply for. PA has just released a study about the impact of Ag in the state. EDA's objectives for Perry's Ag community is very much in line with the recommendations from the state. The county is also a priority area for the USDA's rural development program. Reps from the USDA will be visiting directly after today's meeting to discuss opportunities.
- Still investigating the option of creating a 501c3, to allow additional flexibility with obtaining grant funding. June volunteered to create a white paper on the different types of nonprofits with corresponding pros/cons.
- Board development: Kevin assigned to organize a learning session for the Board. Discussion on timing either 2nd or 3rd quarter.

Reminder to all that when we began this journey we researched economic development plans from areas similar to Perry County. Every successful rural community development effort took 3-5 years to plan. This takes time and we're doing the ground work now. It is critical to not only engage the public for their input but gain their support for the initiatives we recommend.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: June participated in a USDA webinar. Profoundly bad news for counties such as ours. We are losing a generation of people to heroin and opioids. Projections for next ten years are stunning. We would be derelict if we didn't keep this on our radar. We're losing prime wage earners, with multiplier effects into the horizon. Rich reminded the Board that EDA cohosted a roundtable with Senator Casey a few months ago on this important topic.

Michelle: Please complete the 2018 statements of financial interest.

Frank: The board should be aware that the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) program is now open. It allows new businesses tax abatement on the difference between the base real property tax and the value of the improved property assessment for a period of up to 10 years. It is geared toward properties that aren't being developed as an incentive for businesses to locate in the areas designated by the KOZ. Some examples are the Business Campus and Buffalo Crossing. In order to apply for the designation, the property owner must have agreements from school district, township, county and the state. Howe Township indicated willingness to participate.

Russ: Historical Society owns 11 properties –including Tavern in Duncannon. They need to do something with it. Members of the EDA and Chamber attended a meeting that included Duncannon residents

about how to make progress. It will take a lot of money to keep building from falling down let alone redevelop it. Historical Society is 501c3, so they have options with both private and public funding but they need a plan/use for the building.

Jim: Meeting will be hosted by the PC Farm Bureau on January 25th at 6:30 at the Extension office to see if there is any interest in having another Farm Fest.

Dawn Lowe: Working on scheduling a job fair. Life Center was volunteered as space, in Spring. Distributed copies of an economic assessment prepared by Jobs EQ.

Rich motioned to adjourn, June 2nd. Motion carried.