**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**February 7, 2024**

**Perry County Economic Development Authority**

**Perry County Business and Tourism Center**

**New Bloomfield, PA.**

**Attendees:** Ed Barben, Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta, Russ Hoover, Lindsay Hutchinson

**Virtual participants:** David Misner, Frank Campbell, Duane Hertzler, Dee Anderson

**Staff:** Michelle Jones, Kyleigh Spidle

**Absent:** Patti McLaughlin, Scott Dunkleberger

**Excused:** Patti McLaughlin, Scott Dunkleberger

**Visitors:** None

**Call to Order Re-Organizational meeting:**

The February 2024 PCEDA Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Roberts at 8:31 AM.

**Public Comment:** None

**Secretary’s Report:**

Russ Hoover presented the minutes of PCEDA’s meeting on January 11, 2024, which had been distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. There was a motion by Ed Barben to accept the minutes as presented, Rich Pluta seconded the motion.

Changes to the January minutes were to add approved grants, and the challenge of submitting grants for more than one location in the second paragraph. Corrections will be made. Ed Barben moved to accept the changes, and Rich Pluta seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* The Financial Report was presented for the period ending January 31, 2024, prepared by Robert Morris & Co., which was distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. Michelle Jones presented three façade projects that will be paid at $3000.00 each. No board approval was needed for these façade projects. Rich Pluta proposed a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Ed Barben seconded the motion, and it was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Chair Report:**

Marti Roberts reported as follows:

* Discussion of the fairgrounds project which seems to be going well. The consultants are doing well, and there is ongoing discussion about the best use of the space. Additional spaces discussed were a kitchen, baths/showers, soccer fields, etc. There were also suggestions for securing and updating fancy house. There were a lot of great ideas. The consulting team will discuss a funding strategy. There were discussions regarding the location of the stage as there have been complaints in the past regarding noise nuisance from the neighbors. The next fair meeting will be held February 27th at the PCEDA office at 1:00. Rich Pluta ask if they will have any cost estimates at that time?

* Marti Roberts summarized the great meeting in Millerstown High School to discuss art installations in each borough. This event showcased the Millerstown initiative. Two representatives were at the meeting from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts as well as the artist in residence which shared her process and got the students to begin cutting out tiles.
* At today’s meeting we will be joined by Madra Clay, DCED, Bill Arrowood, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, and Iris Peters. We have provided them with an annual report.

**Staff Reports:**

PCEDA signed a contract with Centre Publications to create a visitor’s guide for Perry County. There is no charge for this publication. The company makes their profit from advertising in the publication. The guide should be out mid-summer.

Millerstown established a group similar to NERPS in Newport. Michelle was at their planning meeting. They like the multi-model grant and have hired a person to help them apply for this grant.

 We are soliciting bids for the Wayfinding project.

Michelle was also in Altoona for an ARC project.

Kyleigh Spidle has spent a great deal of time preparing for the state assessment which is a required annual report.

Tree Grant preapproved but there has been no interest.

Many of the boroughs are struggling to get volunteers to help with the main street committee functions and are trying to figure out a way to have more participation.

The arts installation projects will be a great success.

A First Fridays committee has been established and the committee includes Lindsey Hutchinson, Michael Lindgren, Dee Anderson, and Tara Hartley.

Frank asks if we will be having another pickle ball tournament in 2024 for fundraising. The consensus is we will probably not have this event again this year.

Discussion about 501c(3) and how to proceed

 **Old business:** None

**New Business/Announcements:**

* Hotel tax. Frank Campbell is trying to find DCED who is our tourism bureau.
* The sports complex hasn’t made much progress. The committee has reduced the number of properties they are considering to two. Also, a feasibility study and cost estimates need to be calculated.

**Adjourn:**

Russ Hoover moved to adjourn the meeting, Rich Pluta seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without dissent at 9:50 AM

Staff report December 2023

Ongoing:

* Working on work plans for 2024. Please send your suggestions.
* Managing facades, grants (applying and reimbursements), finances, etc
* Flood study project update (11/29/2023), proposed a task force for improved access and flood control Duncannon. Potentially address 2/3 of repetitive flood claims in county.
* Counselors meeting, set up with new commissioners, also met with new Greenwood superintendent.

New:

* Started an economic development course offered by PEDA. I’m thinking about going for certification
* Meet with the USDA regarding the sports complex project and potential funding
* Longanecker ribbon cutting. Tour was so interesting
* Fairgrounds kick off meeting.
* Working on end of year/annual report for each borough will be available digitally and in print.