



Russell County Economic Development and Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Board Meeting



*Thursday, September 19th, 2024 @ 7:30am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB
Office*

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Duke Strobel, Dustin Madden, Malinda Walker, Stephanie Grisham, Kayla Schneider, Jeannine Byers-Long, Jamie Malone, Jeannie Stramel, Karla Berry, Maggie Holloway, Lisa Sandberg, and Mike Parsons.

Call Meeting to Order:

Dustin Madden called the meeting to order at 7:29 a.m.

Opening Announcements: Mike introduced our new board member, Stephanie Grisham.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Jeannine made a motion to approve the minutes from August, Jeannie seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Financial Review: Mike gave a general overview; CVB fund #150 has spent 66% of the budget for the year, YTD \$61,014.82 with a remaining balance of \$31,085.18. ED fund #155 has spent 68% of the budget for the year, YTD \$168,974.74 with a remaining balance of \$81,025.26. The above YTD financials reflect the purchase of a 2022 Chevy Traverse to replace the Jeep that was totaled out from the past storms.

Loan Program Updates:

- Russell County Loan Program – There will be a new application coming through soon.
- E-Community Loan Program – A loan was approved and will be signed this Friday.
- GrowKs Loan Program – There are two people in the process of applying.
- Other –

CVB Funding Request: None received – remaining balance of \$5,541.53 for the remainder of the year.

Projects/Clients:

- **Project 5 Floors:** Mike stated he is still working to retain the major retail impact on downtown Russell. Conversations with out-of-town clients and locals.
- **Bankers Building:** Exploring other options for the Bankers building...conversations focused on food, and drink service, plus potential upper-level housing.
- **Project Beano:** Mike stated there are current business retention efforts in the works.
- **Bunker Hill:** Options are being explored of city vs. county jurisdiction to spur business expansion.
- **Project Candy Cane:** Mike gave an overview of a potential business startup in Waldo.
- **Project Trojan Horse:** Confidential Business Recruitment effort.
- **Project Pharmacy Concerns:** Discussion was held around the transition of Gregwires to Midwest health and their growing pains.

Programs/Events:

- **Love, Kansas-** Mike gave an overview of the program and \$5,000 grant.
- **Make My Move-** Mike discussed the regional and local numbers. The office is working to make the account more unique.
- **Storefront/Signage Grant Program-** Mike stated this program will launch 10/01/2024. The addition of childcare was discussed, but nothing was decided.
- **Tourism Economic Impact Reports-** Maggie presented the latest tourism reports from the state.

Open Conversation: The meeting in October will have the bylaws to review one last time before the first of the year. Dustin Madden asked about Project Toothache; Mike gave a quick update on where that stands.

- **Office Miscellaneous:**
- **Office Vehicle-** Mike informed the board the insurance totaled out the jeep and the office is purchasing a 2022 Chevrolet Traverse in the amount of \$31,349.95.
- **Lucas Church-** Mike stated he is working to provide grant assistance to the Lucas Historical Society building.
- **Housing Developer Meetings-** Mike will be scheduling meetings to focus on single family housing in the county.
- **Holiday Schedule-** Mike asked if the board wanted to hold a meeting in November or December, there will be no meeting in December. Discussion on November's meeting was tabled until the October meeting.

Community Updates, Additional Announcements, and Open Conversation: Jeannie mentioned The Kansas Post Rock Limestone Collations is presenting the 2024 Preservaion award to Tony Mahoney for his work on he Bankery, everyone is welcome to join. Malinda said the west wall on the Log Cabin is completed except for a small hole that they are trying to find logs for. Malinda spoke on the Luray Craftique, everyone is welcome. Karla said at The Fossil Station Museum on 10/05 from 1-3 there is the opening display & reception of Mr. Beck's WWII POW memorabilia of his Battan Death March experience. Jeannie also stated the old Lucas water tower is being removed on 10/24 since the new water tower is operational.

Motion to Adjourn: Dustin made the motion to adjourn, Jeannine seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Next Advisory Board Meeting: October 17th @ 7:30 am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB Office