



Russell County Economic Development and CVB Minutes

Date: 02/17/2022

Time: 7:30AM

Call to Order: Mike Parson at 7:35AM

In Attendance

Mike Parsons, Maggie Holloway, Jim Cross, Daron Woelk, Karla Berry, Malinda Walker.

Approval of Minutes

No quorum.

Approval of Financials

No quorum.

Russell County Loan Program

Current Balance- \$50,321.12. Mike is working on one delinquent loan. Itchy Trigger Finger loan is now closed out.

E-Community Loan Program

All loans are current, no delinquent loans. There is no longer a financial limit per region set by Network KS. We have given out 7 loans, a total of \$239,500.00.

Economic Development Update

- **SBA-** Working with Northwest Kansas Planning & Development Commission. We currently have 4 clients that are pursuing or going to pursue approximately \$1.2 – 1.4 million in SBA loans locally. 2 clients are in Russell City and 2 are in Russell County for expansions or startups. 2 are expansions, 1 is the purchase of an existing business and 1 is for startup.
- **Legislative Update-** Attended WKREDA's legislative meeting. Discussed expanding the budget for moderate income housing & affordable childcare. Mike also attended the Farm Bureau legislative meeting.
- **13 Ways-** Teamed up with Dane G. Hanson & Russell Specialty Books & Gifts with forming a "community book club" over '13 Ways to Kill Your Community'. 5-week program, 5 meetings to discuss the book. We will advertise this club and facilitate this book club. Meeting's will be at 12:00pm in Russell. After this class it has been discussed hosting one in Lucas later.
- **Annual Report-** Request city dues in March. Our dues are one tenth of the half cent sales tax evaluations. Mike has a presentation available for every city to view.
- **County NRP Update-** No movement being made at this time; project is on hold. We are waiting to see what the State is going to do. Currently stalled in senate.
- **Housing-** Mike is working on possible Waffle-Crete housing. Mike also plans to apply to Dane G. Hanson & RCACF for housing program funds.
- **OC Internship Program-** A partnership through Ogallala Commons. This year our goal to have 5 county wide internships. (We are not housing the interns, just finding them a sponsor and a host). Currently, Agrilead Inc. has agreed to sponsor 2 internships and host 1. Russell County Historical Society is going to host 2 interns and sponsor 1. We are talking with other entities like the City of Russell and Russell Regional Hospital.
- **Strategic Plan Update-** Working document that incorporates the NWKPDC comprehensive development plan. Mike is working with Kayla from the City of Russell on this. Housing is a huge goal on this-- new sub-division, senior living facility, incentive program on an annual level, increase development and restoration of rental properties. Childcare is another big goal with this project. Childcare Aware of Kansas is going to come join us to facilitate our first meeting. Looking for qualified people to be on the committee.
- **SBDC Programs or other wanted programs-** Our goal is to have more of those this year. We had 2 last year. These programs are free for us to host and facilitate county wide through SBDC and FHSU. Classes Mike would like to have- Resume/Cover letter writing training, Fundamentals SEO class, Business Plan Bootcamp & Life After Business.
- **Sunflower Electric Project-** Sunflower Electric wants to put in a 100+acre solar field east of Russell that ties into their grid. Supplemental energy during the peaks. Sunflower Electric hosted a meet and greet at the Fossil Hotel about it. There is an application with the county commissioners. Pending commissioners' decision.

- **Other Clients/Projects/Program-** 4 clients going through FHSU business plans currently. 3 businesses are startups, 1 business is expansion. BASE Grant letters of support for two clients. KIOGA is hosting mid-year convention here. We will be working with Andrea Krug Krause for visitor bags.
- **Other Discussion-** With new members we need to schedule a few meetings up in Lucas. New board members include, Malinda Walker, Jeannie Stramel & Morgan Jones. Meeting date is to stay on the 2nd Thursday of the week, if Mike cannot make it due to meetings, Ashley is supposed to present for him and vice versa. CVB Funding requests need to be discussed at the meetings instead of email.

Tourism Update

No report.

Funding Requests

No report.

Community Updates

Two fundraisers in Luray were held for fire relief. Quarter mania was put on and raised \$800.00+ for fire relief and Luray Community PRIDE did a taco bar/karaoke free will donation event bringing in \$6,682.23 for fire relief. Step Back in Time in Luray (Alice Hill) is still working on grants to combat food shortage. City of Lucas got their CDBG grants for water tower and nitrate plant, they got \$600,000.00.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday March 10th, 2022 at 7:30am at Meridy's.

