



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



*Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 7:30am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB Office*

## Meeting Minutes

### In Attendance

Dustin Madden, Karla Berry, Malinda Walker, Jon Birky, Jeannine Byers-Long, Kayla Schneider, Jeannie Stramel, Jamie Malone, Aaron Talbott (online), Maggie Holloway, Lisa Sandberg, and Mike Parsons.

### Call Meeting to Order:

Jon Birky called the meeting to order at 7:29 a.m.

### Opening Announcements:

Mike stated the commission has appointed two new board members: Stephanie Grisham and Jamie Malone.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Karla made a motion to approve the minutes from June, Kayla seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Review:** Mike gave a general overview; CVB fund #150 has spent 33% of the budget for the year, YTD \$30,622.79 with a remaining balance of \$61,477.21. ED fund #155 has spent 49% of the budget for the year, YTD \$122,575.95 with a remaining balance of \$127,424.05.

**Open Conversation:** Jon Birky requested more insight on what is spent on funding requests by the year.

### Loan Program Updates:

- Russell County Loan Program – With the new loan that has been approved, it will leave \$58,722.64.
- E-Community Loan Program – No current updates.
- GrowKs Loan Program – No current updates.
- Other-

**CVB Funding Request:** Russell Main Street- Maggie presented the funding request of \$2,000.00. After board discussion Dustin made the motion approve in the amount of \$4,000.00, Jeannie seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Luray Friendship Day- Maggie presented the funding request of \$1,000.00. After board discussion Dustin made the motion approve, Jeannine Byer-Long seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Paradise Fall Festival- Maggie presented the funding request of \$1,200.00. After board discussion Malinda made the motion approve, Kayla seconded; motion carried unanimously.

### **Projects/Clients:**

- **Wally's Recruitment/ RDI Land:** Collecting bids for a site survey on RDI's 20 acres that is required to submit the recruitment proposal to Wallys Travel Center.
- **Project Stone:** business expansion, \$150,000 loan request, finalizing paperwork.
- **Project Toothache:** Dentist recruitment, \$100,000 loan request, working to purchase building.
- **Project AA:** Business expansion/improvements, loans approved for \$165,000, paperwork sent to regional partners.
- **Project Ramp:** Business startup, \$15,000 loan request - denied.
- **Project Alamo:** Business expansion/relocation, exploring options.
- **Project TB:** Existing business purchase, \$50,000 loan request.
- **SHPTV:** Mike stated that incentives are being explored.

### **Programs/Events:**

- **State Fair-** Maggie stated she will be at the State Fair September 13-15 with a Russell County booth. She said anyone from the board that would like to help is welcome.
- **Housing Conference-** Mike will attend the conference at the end of August. However, this is a three-day event, and he is only able to attend two of them due to a prior commitment.
- **Love, Kansas-** Mike gave an overview of this new promotion and what it will look like.
- **Russell County Leadership-** Maggie was accepted into class III of the program, updates will be given as it progresses.

**Note:** Karla reminded everyone of the ribbon cutting taking place on 7/24 @ 5:30 for the new Agriculture Museum. Karla was excused from the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

### **Office Miscellaneous:**

- **Conference RFP-** K-State Extension is looking for communities to host conferences in August. Maggie is looking into this more.
- **Business Showers Grant-** Mike stated a grant that was applied for has been awarded; you will be seeing more on this in the near future.

- **Promotion Contract-** Mike had a discussion with the board about the videographer contract being signed, \$5,500 for county quality of life/development opportunities highlight, grant received covering \$3,250 of cost.
- **Board Positions-** Jeannine Byers-Long made a motion to move Jon Birky to Chairperson, Kayla seconded; motion carried unanimously. Jeannine Byers-Long made a motion to appoint Dustin Madden as the Vice-Chairperson, Jeannie seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Community Updates, Additional Announcements, and Open Conversation:** Kayla gave an update – There are plans to redo North Fossil Street to the railroad tracks. Jeannie gave an update about Lucas having a new art gallery this fall and also an update on Adams Apple Festival.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Dustin Madden made a motion to adjourn, Malinda seconded; Motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 8:49 a.m.

Next Advisory Board Meeting: August 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB Office