



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



*Thursday, March 20th, 2025 @ 7:30am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB
Office*

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Call Meeting to Order:

Jon Birky called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Opening Announcements: None.

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

Financial Review: Mike gave a general overview; CVB fund #150 has spent 6% of the budget for the year, YTD \$5,108.49 with a remaining balance of \$86,991.51. ED fund #155 has spent 10% of the budget for the year, YTD \$39,599.07 with a remaining balance of \$211,400.93.

Loan Program Updates:

- Russell County Loan Program –
- E-Community Loan Program –
- GrowKs Loan Program – No current updates.
- Other- Dan Krug is pursuing three delinquent loans.

CVB Funding Request:

Blessing of the Bikes- They are requesting \$1,000.00; After board discussion, Jamie Malone made a motion to approve the funding request for \$1,000.00, Dustin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Shrine Ceremonial- They are requesting \$500.00; After board discussion, Karla Berry made a motion to approve the funding request for \$500. Jeannie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LaSada Lodge State Shoot- They are requesting \$1,000.00; After board discussion, Aaron Talbott made a motion to approve the funding request for \$1,000.00, Karla seconded; Dustin Madden opposed.

Wicked Fest- They are requesting \$1,000.00; After board discussion, Jamie Malone made a motion to approve the funding request for \$500.00 contingent on them getting approval from the City, Dustin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Dorrance Decoration Day- They are requesting \$750.00; After board discussion, Dustin Madden made a motion to approve the funding request for \$500.00. Karla seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Projects/Clients:

- **Project Longhorn:** Confidential matter.
- **Project Originals:** Mike stated that Kansas Originals owns the building but not the land, discussion was had about what can be done to help, if anything.
- **Project TB:** Mike gave an update that there is someone interested in purchasing Topsy Bull and there is an application in the works.
- **Project High Power:** Confidential matter.
- **Project Hacksaw:** Confidential matter.
- **MicroMansions:** More discussion was had about possibly touring a MicroMansion and getting reviews on them; The idea is affordable housing for our community.
- **Child Care Center:** A new client is trying to find a building to use as a childcare center.
- **Project AA-HEAL:** An emergency HEAL grant through the state is being sought after for additional repairs, the county will host the application.
- **Project Smoke:** Mike gave a quick overview on this project; Restoration efforts have been started.
- **Project Water Pump:** Confidential matter.

Programs/Events:

- **KARL Program - Travel-** Mike leaves Saturday for Washington D.C. and will be gone until the following Saturday.
- **ROZ - Grow-** Talks of making a new program, more robust program called GROW.

Office Miscellaneous:

- **Assistant Director Position-** Mike stated that the interview process has begun, and one will be held later today.
- **Sea Plane Operation-** Mike gave a quick overview of this project, said there is a meeting coming up to learn more about it.
- **Lucas Infrastructure-** Looking for matching funds to apply for a grant, more information on this later.

Community Updates/Open Conversation: Jeannie stated there will be a gala that she will send invitations out for the board. Jeaninne shared some information about MakeMyMove that she thinks everyone should look at. Mike stated the Luray Fish Fry will be on Friday.

Motion to Adjourn: Jamie made the motion to adjourn, Dustin seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

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