



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



*Thursday, October 17th, 2024 @ 7:30am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB
Office*

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Call Meeting to Order:

Jon Birky called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Opening Announcements: None.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Kayla made a motion to approve the minutes from September, Duke seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Financial Review: Mike stated he has not received the financials from the courthouse yet. He will send them out to the board when he receives them.

Loan Program Updates:

- Russell County Loan Program – No current updates.
- E-Community Loan Program – No current updates.
- GrowKs Loan Program – No current updates.
- Other- Several applications out but none on Mike's desk at the moment. There will be two more loans coming through soon, waiting on paperwork.

CVB Funding Request: Russell Community Thanksgiving Dinner- Maggie presented the funding request of \$500.00. After board discussion, Aaron made the motion approve in the amount of \$500.00, Kayla seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Open Conversation: Duke asked how much was left in the Community Support Fund; Mike stated as of 8/31 there is \$5,541.53 left in the Community Support Fund. Jamie asked if it rolls over into the next year and she was told it does not, the budget starts over.

Projects/Clients:

- **Project Smoke:** An agreement on when the contract for the building purchase will be signed has been made, motivated business project.
- **Project 5 Floors:** Possible sit-down with investors, recruiting businesses that might have interest in the buildings.
- **Flintwood:** The city is doing some background work for the housing complex; State funds are currently on hold.
- **Project Candy Cane:** Working with SBDC, we will help facilitate the HEAL grant application that opens November 1st - they will be closing on the building soon.
- **Project Toothache:** Still looking for a place to house his business in Russell, also looking at land to purchase.
- **Project GI Joe:** Confidential remodel Project
- **Project Maraca:** Tortilla plant looking to expand in Kansas; Beginning stages, Mike will be making cold calls.
- **Project Swag/Convoy- State Issues:** Confidential matter.

Open Conversation: Jeannie asked if anyone had experience with the CDBG grant, Kayla briefly gave her an overview on what it looks like. Jamie asked if there was an update on the pharmacy, and Dustin asked if anyone had shown interest in the Gregwire building downtown.

Programs/Events:

- **TIAC Conference-** Maggie will be traveling to Olathe 10/21-10/24, it is full of seminars and things for you to learn.
- **Kansas Tourism Regional Itineraries-** State has requested 5-10 three-day itineraries from every region for them to promote and post on the tourism site; it is tied into the FAM tours. Northwest will also post individual itineraries.
- **Love, Kansas Update-** Mike gave an overview- The booth was not very successful at the events, looking at different avenues to take for promotion.
- **MakeMyMove Update-** This program is a work in progress but is generating a lot of interest.
- **SFSG-** Mike gave an update – This year is also supporting sidewalks for daycares operated outside of the primary residence.
- **NWKS PDC Annual Meeting-** This will be held the first week in November, 50-60 people in attendance, held at Fossil Creek Hotel and catered by Meridy's.

- **Office Miscellaneous:**
- **Billboard Rewrap Brainstorm-** Economic Development did a billboard grant for 2 years, conversation was had about doing another grant and what do we want the billboards that need resurfaced to look like. Topic will be revisited after the first of the year.
- **Promotional Video-** On 10/17 & 10/18, will be here shooting footage for quality of life of the county and doing interviews on why people came back to the county to live.
- **Bylaws-** Mike asked if everyone was comfortable with signing the bylaws; Dustin made a motion to approve the Economic Development board and Russell County Convention and Tourism board bylaws, Duke seconded; motion carried.
- **Old 40 Collaboration-** Possible bus tours between counties; wine walks and shopping trips.
- **Guide Updates/Reprint-** Maggie is doing guide updates, we need to reorder because stock is low.
- **Holiday Meeting Schedule-** There will be a board meeting November 21st but no meeting in December, if there is nothing major that comes up, it may be cancelled.

Community Updates, Additional Announcements, and Open Conversation: Malinda Stated Mike and Wyatt will have a segment for the Log Cabin on KSN on 10/22 @ 10 a.m., you can also view it on Facebook. Mike and Maggie need to meet the quota at KRSL, they will use some spots for the Log Cabin advertising. Jon congratulated Kayla on her promotion. Kayla said Jag was going to have their I&I ceremony at Amos/Morris gym @ 6 p.m., she also said on 10/28 there would be a public forum on the water sales tax held at The Dream Theater @ 6 p.m. Karla stated on 11/2 & 11/3 there will be the Russell County Youth Pheasant Shoot on her property, and it is free. For ages 11-16 and they have to have their Hunters Education completed or have an adult with them. Jeannie said the Grassroots Art Center elevator should be done next week, then they will schedule the grand opening of the new exhibit.

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

Next Advisory Board Meeting: November 21st @ 7:30 am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB Office