



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



*Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 7:30am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB  
Office*

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **In Attendance:**

Jon Birky, Dustin Madden, Aaron Talbott (online), Duke Strobel, Karla Berry, Jamie Malone, Jeannine Byers Long, Malinda Walker, Kayla Schneider, Alex Lofland, Angie Mueller (online), Lisa Sandberg, Ryleigh Wagner and Mike Parsons.

### **Call Meeting to Order:**

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

**Opening Announcements:** Mike stated Meridy's will be moved to executive session.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Dustin made a motion to approve the minutes contingent on adding Karla to the attendance, Jamie seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Review:** Mike gave a general overview; CVB fund #150 has spent 41% of the budget for the year, YTD \$37,626.99 with a remaining balance of \$54,473.01. ED fund #155 has spent 34% of the budget for the year, YTD \$85,112.95 with a remaining balance of \$164,887.05.

### **Loan Program Updates:**

- Russell County Loan Program – No current updates.
- E-Community Loan Program – No current updates.
- GrowKs Loan Program – No current updates.
- Other-

**Community Updates/Open Conversation:** Kayla mentioned they have an agreement with NWKEICI to get a new housing assessment done. She will be forming a stakeholder group and will reach out to board members at a later date with more information.

### **CVB Funding Request:**

**Lucas Chamber of Commerce-** They are requesting \$500.00; After board discussion, Duke made a motion to approve the funding request for \$500.00, Jeannine seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**RHS Gym Request-** They are requesting \$5,000.00; Since the request was submitted, they have raised all funds needed and the board will not be proceeding with the request at this time.

### **Projects/Clients:**

- **Project Smoke:** The loan committee will be seeing a request for this very soon, this project has been moving forward with great progress.
- **Kansas Originals:** Mike attended their board meeting; options are still being explored for relocation.
- **Holiday Inn Express:** They are still interested in building; state incentives are being explored to help bridge the gap-funding that is needed.
- **Project Asteroid:** Several changes to business plans, including locations/building, are still in the works.
- **Project Pheonix:** Manufacturing company looking to relocate, Mike is still working on that in the background.

### **Programs/Events:**

- **Foodprenuer Bootcamp-** Ryleigh stated she now has the discount code for people to receive \$50 off their enrollment fee; Before enrolling they need to contact our office.

### **Office Miscellaneous:**

- **August Meeting Date Change-** Mike proposed we move the meeting to the second Thursday in August due to scheduling conflicts; After board discussion it was decided the meeting will be on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Community Solutions Grant-** Our office is applying for a \$5,000.00 grant for the Leadership class to help with supplies, venues, meals, etc.
- **Log Cabin Funding-** The \$10,000.00 grant from The Kansas Department of Commerce has been deposited. A time will be set up with Troy Waymaster for distribution.
- **Workforce Recruitment Efforts-** Mike said there will be a meeting to narrow down the recruitment of the workforce.
- **Fishing Habitat – Wilson Lake-** The Wilson Lake habitat is in despair; collaboration efforts are being sought after for a federal grant.
- **Housing Updates-** Mike stated he met with Kayla, and they are working together to keep developments going in the future.

### **Executive Session – Confidential Projects**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Jamie made the motion to adjourn, Dustin seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Next Advisory Board Meeting: August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 am @ Russell County Economic Development & CVB Office