

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

West Square Building, Rm 213

505 Broadway Street, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Monday, September 29, 2014

Members present: Marty Krueger, Donna Stehling, Peter Vedro, Nathan Johnson, Dennis Polivka, Brian Peper

Members absent: Dave Riek, Donna Stehling

Others present: Kathy Schauf, Bart Olson, Tim Stieve

The meeting was called to order and certification of Open Meeting compliance was given at 4:30 p.m.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Polivka, second by Peper. Motion carried.

The meeting minutes from the prior meeting were approved on a motion by Polivka, second by Vedro. Motion carried.

Public Comment None

Communications None.

Update on Sauk County Development Corporation

November 12, 2014, Fall Leadership Forum. Dan Wilson UW Community Development agent has begun working with the Board to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to begin discussions of strategic direction. Jenny Erickson will assist with visioning and strategic direction.

Update on Great Sauk Trail Commission. 170 – 200 individuals attended the September 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m., River Arts Center in Prairie du Sac public input forum. Dialog and conversation was positive and focused on moving forward.

Operational report on fiber infrastructure. B. Olson reviewed service areas that Merrimac Communications covers. Fiber to the home in rural areas is often cost prohibitive. Wireless options are often a more cost effective way to service these homes. Work on the PSC grant to provide fiber to homes in Sumpter was provided. Total cost is \$198,000 for nine miles of coverage. Average of six households per mile.

Discussion and consideration of strategies for Sauk County Broadband / next steps.

LaValle Telephone Cooperative and Reedsburg Utility are next for having a more thorough discussion of broadband access. Reedsburg will be invited to our next meeting.

Discussion of Intergovernmental meeting of April 30, 2014. There was a review of efforts thus far – “Placemaking”.

Consideration and discussion of budget request for placemaking development. **Motion by Vedro, second by Peper, to prepare a budget request of \$125,000 for funding the regional placemaking initiative started. Motion carried.**

Consideration of per diem and mileage for attendance at ArtsGrant-Placemaking seminar in Wisconsin Rapids. **Motion by Polivka, second by Vedro, to approve per diem and mileage for attendance at ArtsGrant-Placemaking seminar in Wisconsin Rapids for up to two members (Krueger and Stehling). Motion carried.**

Next meeting: **October 23, 2014, 4:30 p.m. Motion by Polivka, second by Vedro, to adjourn. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna Stehling

Economic Development Committee Secretary