

RDA Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Arts and Commerce Building

211 Water Street

Bluffton, IN 46714

In Attendance: Gene Donaghy, Andrew Briggs, Bob Marshall, Jeff Turner, Andrew Boxberger

Staff in Attendance: Michael Galbraith, Elisia Barlow, Erin Whittle, John Sampson

Call to order

Andrew Briggs called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Andrew Briggs asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. **Bob Marshall motioned to approve, Jeff Turner seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Election of Officers

Michael Galbraith slated to appoint Brad Bishop as President, Gene Donaghy as Vice President, and Jeff Turner as treasurer. **Andrew Briggs motioned to approve, Gene Donaghy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Claims

Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve the claims presented. **Jeff Turner motioned to approve the claims, Bob Marshall seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Presentation

Michael Lautzenheiser and Kody Kumfer, from Wells County Revitalization Inc., presented on Grow Wells County Project that involves the creation of a plaza in downtown Bluffton and an amphitheater in neighboring Ossian. Michael shared that their overall goal with these two endeavors is to grow and move forward with the goals put forth by the Road to One Million initiative. The plaza project as well as the amphitheater are both a public and private joint partnership. Kody presented on amphitheater portion. The goal of this project is not only to move forward with the ideas being the Road to One Million, but to make Ossian a place that people are attracted to raise a family. This project is also a public and private partnership. Bob Marshall asked what the current time line for completion is. Kody Kumfer responded, the goal is for the project to start in late summer/early 2019 and to be completed in 2020. Kody Kumfer and Michael Lautzenheiser opened the floor to the county commissioners and mayors present to make comments. Commissioner Blake Gerber, Wells County Commissioner, voiced support for both projects. Mayor Ellis also voiced support a trail system that would connect Bluffton City and Ossian Town.

The RDA board will take the project proposals into consideration and to be reviewed at a subsequent meeting. **Gene Donaghy asked for a vote to table the project requests and to take them under advisement. Gene Donaghy motion to approve consideration, Bob Marshall seconded and the motion was unanimously approved to table the discussion.**

Michael Galbraith shared that with this presentation, every county has now brought a proposal to the RDA for approval.

Projects-Pending

Michael Galbraith provided an overview of the Road to One Million Projects. North Buffalo Street Redevelopment Project submitted a disbursement request from the city of Warsaw. **Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve disbursement. Jeff Turner motioned to approve, Bob Marshall seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.** Sub-recipient agreement provided for approval and signature for UB Block and disbursement request. **Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve and sign sub-recipient agreement. Bob Marshall motioned to approve, Andrew Briggs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve disbursement request. Jeff Turner motioned to approve, Bob Marshall seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.** River

Front Park Fort Wayne, Phase 1 disbursement was requested. **Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve disbursement. Jeff Turner motioned to approve, Andrew Briggs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Other Business

Michael Galbraith and Erin Whittle gave a status update regarding RCI Fund Deposits. **Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve the 2019 NEI RDA operating budget. Andrew Briggs motion, Bob Marshall seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Michael Galbraith requested a discussion regarding regional housing. Michael shared the possibility of looking into federal funding to flow into the RDA to support housing due to the RDA's influence in regional housing. Michael is waiting on a definitive answer from the federal government on if the RDA can use the funding or if a consortium of sorts needs be convened to receive the funding support.

New Business

On behalf of HPG Network and the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, Michael Galbraith asked if the RDA would be interested in meeting with the Mayors and Commissioners Caucus in regards to what the RDA has accomplished through the Road to One Million. Michael suggested that the conversation center around the accomplishments in phase 1 and what to expect and what is planned for phase 2. John Sampson spoke in favor and support of collaboration of the RDA and the Mayors and Commissioners Caucus. Michael Galbraith to partner with HPG Network and the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership to get the RDA Board to attend a Caucus meeting in the coming months.

Adjournment

Gene Donaghy adjourned the meeting at 3:19.