

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for February 6, 2018

City Hall

Boardman, Oregon

Attendees: Edie Ball, Janette Eldrige, Judy Moore, Rod Taylor, Sheryll Bates, Darrell Green, Barry Beyler, Don Russell, Carla McLane, Karen Pettigrew.

The meeting started at 8:59 a.m. Meeting minutes for January 2, 2018, were reviewed and approved as written.

Statewide Housing Plan:

Carla provided information for the state webpage related to the Statewide Housing Plan. Carla suggested that the group review the information and continue to monitor the webpage.

Housing as Economic Development:

Carla shared that the Port has released their 2017 Economic Analysis Update for anyone interested in looking at it. As the Port continues to grow, there is a greater need for local housing. A proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and a proposed Request for Proposals (RFP)'s were handed out for review; Carla requested some time from the City partners to discuss the IGA after the meeting. Carla has identified several different consultant teams that can do the work and will reach out to them with the RFP.

The Project Management Team will be made up of the County Planning Director, Carla McLane; City Managers Edie Ball, Karen Pettigrew and Aaron Palmquist; and will also include the Lexington Town Recorder, Janette Eldrige and a representative from the City of Ione. The Technical Advisory Committee would include a representative from the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC), Boardman City Planner Barry Beyler, a representative from the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG), and the Port of Morrow (POM) (will invite Lisa Mittelsdorf).

Carla would like to release the RFP in March for competitive bid, with an anticipated spring timeframe for contract award.

WCVEDG filled out a Request for Information (RFI) for funding from the state for a couple of housing projects including construction of a triplex and duplex.

Tourism:

The Parks Plan will go before the Planning Commission in March and then the Board of Commissioners for final adoption in April. This will be an input to the anticipated Goal 4 exception. Cycle Oregon is coming back to Eastern Oregon this year but won't be in Morrow County however there is still an opportunity for tourism from participants in the area.

Roundtable:

Janette – Lexington will be receiving \$50,000 small city grant allotment. The reservoir lining task is still coming up.

Edie – Finance Officer Recruitment moving forward with 6 applicants; next TSP meeting the end of February; Sewer main break found while using new sewer vac truck.

Judy – Oregon Rugged Country way finding signage for farm loop grant process as well as kiosk process. CEDS getting ready to kick off – due 2019. Housing grants are being applied for in other areas. GEODC Annual Meeting will be in Arlington on March 9, 2018.

Rod – Lone has a small water project underway to address volume, but not pressure. The grain elevator in Lone is coming down; dealing with pigeons and mourning doves.

Sheryll – WCVEDG Housing Rehab program is working. WCVEDG annual lunch is February 15, 2018 and the Chamber Town and Country is February 8, 2018. Heppner is preparing for St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Darrell – Morrow County is currently working on the budget and preparing for 2 new north county buildings.

Karen – Boardman just completed annexation project with Port of Morrow. The field house is under construction.

Don – Attending the Columbia Development Authority meeting about the reuse of the former Army Depot. Morrow County is currently recruiting for a vacancy on the budget committee.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Heppner City Hall.

Agenda Build: Housing as Economic Development, Mid-Columbia River Regional Master Plan, Tourism Opportunities, and roundtable.

Adjourned at 10:57 a.m.