

WOOD RIVER VISION 2020, INC.  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 26, 2015

The scheduled quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wood River Vision 2020, Inc. was held at 5:33 pm on Monday, October 26, 2015 at the Wood River Civic Center. Board members present were Tyler Doane, Greg Cramer, Jason Rotter, Pam Kjar and Joyce Willoughby (late arrival). Brian Hayes was absent. Also in attendance was Sara Arnett, Vision Housing Committee, Lori Ferguson, SCEDD, and Kelly Gewecke, Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

The first agenda item was approval of the July 27, 2015 meeting. Cramer moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Rotter seconded the motion. All aye.

President Doane requested information from Rotter regarding his findings on the possibility of sign placements on Highway 30 and Highway 11 for the Wood River Municipal Golf Course and Hwy 11 for a directional sign to the business district. After discussion it was determined that in order to place signs for the golf course, the best course of action would be to acquire permission from private property owners and pursue a sign permit. Kelly Gewecke, DED, explained that there are definite state and federal considerations for sign permits along Highway 30 because of its historical designation. Rotter did not see a likelihood of having a business district sign placed on Highway 11.

Doane introduced Lori Ferguson, SCEDD and Kelly Gewecke, Nebraska DED to educate the group about the Certified Leadership Program designation. Ferguson stated that SCEDD is willing to coach any group or community willing to pursue the designation. Advantages to obtaining the designation include an advantage when pursuing grant funds and the appearance that the community is visionary. She complimented the group and the City on the submittal of the DED grant, stating that the state department voiced their pleasure with our application. Twelve specific steps must be completed prior to application submittal. Ferguson, in reviewing the first seven steps, indicated that most are currently in place, or are being worked on. They are:

- Complete a Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS).
- Complete a Community Profile.
- Develop a Community Strategic Plan.
- Develop a Comprehensive Plan.
- Develop a Capital Improvement Plan.
- Develop Zoning/Subdivision Ordinances.
- Develop Building Codes, Code Enforcement and Building Permit process.

Gewecke informed the Board of the remaining steps in the process:

- Have, update & continue a consistent online presence (including community website).
- Updated/consistent presence on LOIS (Location One Information System).
- Establish & implement an active BR & E program (Business Retention & Expansion).
- Develop financial options for projects/goals.
- Develop a resource list for businesses.

Gewecke expounded on the areas stating that our presence on LOIS can help to locate properties for potential new uses. She stated she will avail herself to assist with any of these processes, if needed. She

informed the Board that documentation of an active BR & E program is necessary. Ferguson stated that she believed there are three steps to focus on, online presence, presence on LOIS and the BR & E program. Arnett voiced her support of the program.

Kjar moved to proceed with the application process to become a Certified Leadership Program. Rotter seconded the motion. All aye.

Arnett questioned if a Town Hall meeting is in order to inform the community of the progress within the City since our last town meeting. It would be useful in the Strategic Plan process. After discussion, it was decided to hold a Town Hall meeting after the first of the year. Doane asked if we could have assistance with the meeting. Both Ferguson and Gewecke indicated they would help with the Town Hall meeting.

Ferguson will draft a letter of intent to be signed by the Mayor for Vision 2020 to pursue the application process.

Arnett reported on the OOR status. She said they had gotten the contract. SCEDD is reviewing the contract and preparing all documents to present to the City Council for approval and signatures. The 3-year time frame to distribute funds started September 15. Homeowners who completed the pre-application for funds prior to the grant submittal will have their application reviewed first.

Arnett told the Board that she had spoken with Mesner Development to pursue a NIFA program being offered currently. After investigating the program, Mesner Development has decided to wait for more information on this program. No action will be taken at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding downtown redevelopment programs. Arnett stated she was certainly interested in pursuing funding for facade/storefront renovations. Rotter discussed the possibility of new lighting, such as Cairo and Grand Island downtown districts. Ferguson stated that lighting could be a possibility, maybe through USDA funds. She suggested we speak with several communities that had just recently completed redevelopment regarding their experiences with the process. If we decide to pursue funding, SCEDD could assist with the process. She will provide more information to our group. Rotter will investigate the process to receive federal funds.

Kjar reported on the Holiday Lighting project for Library Park. She stated she had received a quote from a Kearney landscaping firm to provide, install, remove and store the lighting for 16 trees. A grant has been prepared for submittal to the Wood River Community Centennial Foundation for the total \$2,539.75. The lights would become the property of Vision 2020. Subsequent contracts would include installation, removal and storage only. A community tree-lighting will be held on November 28, followed by cookies and hot chocolate/coffee in the civic center. She had already contacted the Community Club to assist with the tree lighting activity. Willoughby moved to proceed with the holiday lighting, Cramer seconded the motion. All aye.

Cramer reported the next pool committee meeting will be November 2 at the Civic Center. He said they are in the final stages of completing the design process and hope to have the pool out for bids in February 2016. He informed the group they are currently in the process of completing applications for other grant funding.

Willoughby stated that she had contacted the state regarding lower speed limits on Highway 11 (north of Highway 30) and the possibility of a left turn lane onto Wood River Road. She was told this was not feasible at this time. Cramer indicated that the City is working to lower the speed limit in the corporate limits. Rotter stated that a traffic study may need to be performed prior to a turn lane request. He indicated it may be action the City and School wish to pursue prior to a future paving project on Highway 11, it is too late to request for the 2016 paving.

There being no further business before the Board, Doane adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:10.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be January 25, 2016.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tyler Doane, President

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Pam Kjar, Secretary