

**Wood River Vision 20/20  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2017**

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Wood River Vision 20/20 was held January 23, 2017 at the Wood River Civic Center. The meeting convened at 5:35 pm with members Tyler Doane, Greg Cramer, Brian Hayes and Pam Kjar present. Joyce Willoughby and Jason Rotter were absent. Sara Arnett, Housing Committee chair, Kelly Gewecke, Nebraska DED and Chelsie Doane also attended the meeting.

The minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Doane moved to accept the minutes as prepared. Cramer seconded the motion. All aye, motion carried.

The first item of business was a discussion regarding a lack of daycare in Wood River. Gewecke reported that daycare was a recurring issue that was identified by numerous businesses during the Business & Industry interview process. Gewecke concluded interviews of 18 local businesses, 4 are considered Prime businesses, having multi-state, national or international sales. The remaining 14 are CRTS businesses, Commercial, Retail, Tourism or Service related businesses. Other areas of concern for businesses include workforce availability, housing and restaurants. The businesses found Wood River infrastructure to be adequate, and in general, a friendly, supportive community with strong leadership. A complete report summarizing the results is attached to these minutes.

Discussion regarding daycare options continued. Gewecke informed the Board that grant funds are available from the Nebraska Health and Human Services for establishment of a daycare, in home or facility. She indicated her willingness to facilitate a town hall meeting for individuals considering a day care business endeavor. Chelsie Doane stated that among young adults that she had visited with, they would prefer a day care facility. Gewecke stated that she is currently working with a day care facility located in central Nebraska, which has not shown a profit for approximately 5 years. Arnett stated that she believed that the schools should be approached again regarding the day care problem. Chelsie Doane and Gewecke both stated that the lack of infant care needs addressed as well.

It was determined that Chelsie Doane and others will contact the schools, churches, Wood River Vision 20/20 email list, in the hopes of finding an interest for a facility, and to establish a workforce. Notices will be placed on the City website, FB page and in the Wood River Sunbeam to attract the attention of the population. We also discussed reaching out to existing daycares to ascertain if Vision 20/20 can help them locate additional resources to improve their business and ensure they remain full.

Other items of note from the business committee include the new businesses of Back to Back Chiropractic, Subway (opening in 7-10 days) and Dollar General. It was noted that long-time Wood River business, Peters Hardware, would be closing at the end of January.

The next item of business was downtown revitalization. Cramer reported that the City Council has approved funding the share to do the grant study. It will cost the City approximately \$9,000-11,000 and a year to complete the study. The balance of the funds to complete the study would be paid by DED. Gewecke stated that if the grant is awarded, approximately 25% of the funds can be used for façade improvement. Accessibility issues will be addressed at this time.

Arnett reported on the progress of the OOR funds. She said they currently have 11 applicants, 9 have received approval and 2 are in the approval process. Two more applicants were not in a position at this

time to qualify for funds. The 11 applications should use the balance of the improvement funding. Funds that have been earmarked for demolition have not been spent at this time. Several properties are being investigated for acquisition and demolition.

Kjar reported on the Library Park Holiday Lighting project. There were approximately 200 people in attendance again this year. She stated that she was not happy with the installation this year and that we need to explore options for 2017. The City of Wood River utility crew hung two stars donated by local resident, Charles Mead.

The last item on the agenda included the term limits of Brian Hayes and Jason Rotter. Hayes agreed to serve another term of 3 years. Rotter had verbally indicated to President Tyler Doane that he did not wish to renew his term. Kjar asked Arnett if she would consider filling the void on the Board. Upon her consent, Kjar moved to approve Arnett to fill the vacant Board seat. Hayes seconded the motion. All aye, motion carried.

It was moved by Cramer and seconded by Doane that the term limits of Kjar and Willoughby be corrected to expire in January of 2018. The limits were incorrectly approved in January of 2015. All aye, motion carried.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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

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Tyler Doane, President

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Pam Kjar, Secretary