



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Attendees:

Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge	Brenda Smith-High Desert Partnership
Noelle Colby-Rotell-DHS	Daniel Porter-Community Member
Don Rotell-Bureau of Land Management	Misti Porter-TVCC Outreach
George Heinz-CinA, HC NRAC	Roger Sheley- High Desert Partnership
Zelly-Community Member	Jennifer Taynton-High Desert Partnership
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Denise Rose-HC Economic Development
Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital	
Rick Paul-Community Member	

- Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. General introductions were made around the table. Greg is in Legislative Session in Salem but will try to call in for the early part of the meeting.
- Old Business:** January meeting minutes were provided via the website with email reminders. By general agreement there were no changes or additions to the minutes. A comment was made by Brenda Smith that the new website distribution system worked well.
- New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

City of Hines, Kirby Letham- no report

City of Burns-no report

Business Oregon, no report but Larry Holzgang was in town last week and will try to coordinate his visits to the county in order to attend future CRT meetings.

Harney County Court, Judge Runnels- the proposed 6% county transient room tax, which will impact all lodging in incorporated and unincorporated portions of the county, will be on the primary ballot. The funds will be collected from hotel and motel receipts and used for the following: 7% to tourism, 80% to the county fair, and the remainder split between HC Search and Rescue and the Western History room. The search process to fill the County Commissioner seat vacated by Mark Owens was outlined. They have 6 letters of interest for the position and 12 who would like to serve on the recommendation committee to date. The deadline for both submissions is this Friday.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy – Tracy was unable to attend, no report.

Housing Committee, the committee is working on a meeting for local contractors to give input on incentive programs that will enable them to consider building homes. It is planned for February 18th.

Workforce Committee, Brenda Smith, Misti Porter – Misti reported that a partnership with COCC will enable both Pharmacy Tech and CNA classes in the fall. Discussion was held about the timeline for the new CTE building at the Ontario Campus of TVCC. It will likely hold the industrial manufacturing, computer science and potentially construction classes. Brenda reported on the success of the pipeline to bring natural resource students to the county for hands on experiences. A discussion was held about how to focus the process and follow up with connecting students to the businesses. Volunteers Misti Porter, Brenda Smith, Rick Paul and Denise Rose will work to get the current programs for HS, College and post school career opportunities identified and to finalize the survey of interest for businesses.

Infrastructure Committee, Pete Runnels- the broadband loan package has been submitted to Business Oregon. The Economic Development Strategic Plan dates back to 2012 and should be updated every five years. The judge asked for volunteers to review the current plan and he then provided the group with an overview of the Mission and Vision statements. The full version will be emailed to volunteers Noelle Colby-Rotell, Misti Porter, Jen Hoke, and Denise Rose. Suggested edits will be reviewed at the March meeting. A suggestion was made to get the newly completed Entrepreneurial Ecosystem on the economic development website.

Small Business Development Committee, there will be a Crafting fundraiser at Spark Collaborative on February 22nd.

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose– work has focused on the housing committee this month with additional efforts in identifying industrial land for certification. The office still sees between 6-8 small business clients a week. Information about the DEQ hearing for BioDynamics was reviewed again and participation was encouraged.

B. Focus Reports:

Noelle Colby-Rotell – was introduced and welcomed to the group. She is the new DHS representative and she described her position as one which will help coordinate volunteer and community activities with DHS clients. She has an extensive background in Harney County both from her previous position with RDI and as a former resident.

General Announcements and Discussion- The County Fair Board is seeking a new member and a letter of interest may be submitted to the County Court. The horse racing events for fair will be held the last weekend in July this year due to the availability of the racing company. Discussion may be held about moving the entire fair to an earlier date as the lateness of the season has been an ongoing challenge when trying to bring in outside vendors and services. A follow up discussion was held concerning the carnival.

Jen Hoke – Kids Club- announced that the new Geno’s Gym will be completed this spring and ready for occupancy. They have hired a new executive director who will move here with her family from the Portland area and a new Program Manager, Erin Cate.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

