



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Wednesday October 3, 2018

Attendees:

Dennis Davis-Community Member	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
George Heinz-Restoration Collaborative, CiNA	Terri Hellbusch-Community Member
Tonya Fox-Training and Employment	Sammie Masterson-Harney District Hospital
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks and Rec.	Scott Fairley-Business Oregon
Lola Johnson-HC Chamber of Commerce	Robin Christy-Robin's Closet
Judy Erwin-City of Hines	Mark Christy-Community Member
Dauna Wensenk-City of Burns	Rhonda Karges-Bureau of Land Management
Rick Paul-Community Member	Luke Hemphill-L&M Investments
Pete Runnels-HC Judge	Curt Blackburn-Blackburn Real Estate
Marjorie Thelen-Gallery 15	Chantel Sheets-DHS-SSP
Christy Cheyne-US Forest Service	Robert Paramore-Paramore Real Estate
Jen Keady-Family Eye Care	Beth Paramore-Paramore Real Estate
Forrest Keady-Historic Central Hotel	Michelle Friedrichsen-Kids Club of Harney County
Kathy Rementeria-DHS	Theresa Dixon-US Forest Service
Tim Alden-Alden Leather Works	Michelle Alden-Community Member
Regina Dunbar-FarmShoppe	Patty Dorroh- Harney County Court
Elizabeth Reams-Community Member	Angela Lamborn-HC Senior & Community
Denise Rose-HC Economic Development	Greg Smith-HC Economic Development

1. **Greg Smith** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.
2. **Old Business:** September meeting minutes were provided via email. It was moved and seconded to approve minutes. All voted in favor.

3. **New Business:**

A. **Regular Reports**

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley –No new activity since last month but Scott is talking with several new contacts while in town. He welcomes any referrals for businesses who may need his assistance.

City of Hines Judy Erwin-the lift station replacement and the water planning are the top of the list for the city right now.

City of Burns, Dauna Wensenk –The pre-construction work for the crack seal project at the airport has started. Washington Park restroom project is due to start next week. T&T Glass has been granted

a lot adjustment and approval to add on to their building on Railroad Avenue. The Boys and Girls Club is breaking ground later in the month. The Planning Commission has been very busy. The LID fund is being evaluated by the city attorney for potential revision and change to the use of those funds.

Harney County Court, Pete Runnels- A Community Block grant was received by the county for \$400,000 to be used for home rehabilitation. The hope is to serve at least 25 low-income households and funds are available on a first come, first served basis. Judge Runnels thanked Kerry Opie for her hard work on the grant application. **Commissioner Patty Dorroh-** the housing inventory work has started and the contractor performing the work is Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation.

Burns Paiute Tribe – no report

Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith – A review of the work done over the previous month included the article series that will be appearing in the Burns Times-Herald on a regular basis, upcoming classes for the winter and the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem project with the High Desert Partnership.

B. Other Reports:

Kids Club of Harney County, Michelle Friedrichsen-it was announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for Geno's Gym would be October 19th at 4:30 PM.

Adventure Harney, Christy Cheyne-a background of the program was given. The group was formed as a collaborative to encourage and promote the recreational use of public lands. They have had some success, including the Skull 120 bike race headed into its third year next June. But the membership is dwindling, and she has taken a job out of the area and is concerned about the group's sustainability. Travel Oregon is interested in helping promote their activities and wants to keep a local community-based connection. The CRT group had a general discussion and several expressed interest in helping. The next Adventure Harney/Skull 120 combo meeting is 10/10 at 10:00 AM in the Community Center. Economic Development will ask their high school intern if he can help the USFS office locate an intern. Scott Fairley mentioned the RARE program through the University of Oregon can provide college student internships.

Senior and Community Center, Angela Lamborn- The Senior Center has obtained funding for the expansion of the bus barn. The stops for the new fixed routes have been identified and maps and signage will be next.

Progress reports on work topics:

Angela Lamborn reported that the West Ridge project is coming along with an additional \$375,000 in funding from the Oregon Housing Authority. They will be helping to administer the Block Grant funding for housing rehab. She described the application process and noted that funds are available for owner-occupied homes, not rentals in Burns, Hines and Harney County. Rehabilitation is for health and safety projects only. **(Housing)**

C. Small Business Support and Development Report:

Forrest Keady gave the following report:

A group of 15-20 business owners and interested persons met for discussion and came up with three main topics:

1. They developed a list of businesses that fit the community and could serve as a starting point for those interested in owning or starting a business;
 - Quilt store
 - Brewery, brewpub or distillery
 - Sweet shop and/or ice cream shop
 - Bike shop and recreational rentals
 - Food: bakery, food carts, additional restaurants
 - Dog park
 - Laundromat
 - Professional services: attorney, structural engineer (possibly satellite locations of existing business in nearby towns)
 - Pop up businesses or seasonal businesses may be a good way for people to “test drive” a new idea or concept without a lot of investment.
2. Grow, start or enforce incentives or disincentives to deal with the vacant and derelict buildings in town.
 - The group asked for a plan from the city that will address absentee owners who do not maintain their vacant buildings and do not seem willing to sell them to someone who will fix them up. They plan to meet with the city administrators.
 - Combat negative perceptions that Burns isn’t open for business. Several would-be business professionals feel that it has been difficult to work through the city process for building, remodeling and starting a business.
3. Fiber and Internet Capacity
 - We need capacity built.

Forrest shared the website [Better Block.org](http://BetterBlock.org) for ideas. He also announced a Central Oregon Mainstreet representative would be here for a Mainstreet Meeting on October 23rd, 6:30 PM at the Central Hotel. The discussion will focus on the direction of the local main street group and bolstering membership involvement. Anyone interested is welcome.

D. Other Comments for the Benefit of the Community

- A new business owner and his wife attended to introduce their business. Tim and Michelle Alden will be moving Alden’s School of Leathers Works to Burns in time for the 2019 class schedule. They have leased part of the vacant building on Broadway owned by L&M Investments and are involved in the refurbishing process. He described his business model and his plan to serve 79-100 students in the next year. Class registration is going very well. Future

plans for the business may include retail space and/or viewing area for customers to watch the work in process.

- Marjorie Thelen commented that she attended two workshops in the past month on website development and Rural Skill Builders and both were very good. She felt both events could have benefitted from more promotion.
- Greg Smith mentioned that it may be useful for the group to have a discussion about upcoming legislation at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be November 7, 2018. Greg asked for thoughts about the agenda and direction for the CRT group, as the initial work groups are established.

