Minutes

Community Revitalization Team

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

5:30 PM- 7:00 PM

484 N. Broadway, Burns OR

**Attendees: In person Zoom**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge | Patty Dorroh-Harney County Commissioner |
| Kirby Letham-City of Hines | Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative |
| Brenda Smith – High Desert Partnership | Tim Woolsey- Symmetry Care |
| Susan Christensen-GEODC | Bob Cargill-OTEC Board |
| Judy Erwin-City of Burns | Tucker Billman-OTEC |
| Rick Paul-Community Member | Feather Sams-Huesties-Business Oregon |
| Dan Brown-City of Burns | George Heinz-Community Member |
| Curt Blackburn-Jett Blackburn Real Estate | Gretchen Bates-TVCC |
| Keith Ziobron-Cardno-Stantec | Bill Hart-Community Member |
| Barbara Cannady-Fair Value Auctions | Greg Smith-HC Economic Development |
| Deanna Thrall-HC Chamber of Commerce | Will Keady-HC Economic Development |
| Steve Quick-HC School District #3 | Zoom: |
| Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling | Mary Furr-Community Member |
| Denise Rose-HC Economic Development | Amber Wares-Symmetry Care |

**1. Introductions:** Greg Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first in person meeting this year.

**2.** **Old Business:** the minutes were provided on the website for the February meeting. By general agreement, the minutes stood as provided.

**3. New business:**

1. **Regular Reports**

**City of Burns, Dan Brown –** updated the group on progress in the water project and mentioned a sewer master plan is coming up next. Street repairs projects are going out for bid. The URA is in the legal rulemaking process and there has been a lot of interest in the URA and how it works. Cardno efforts have been valuable in the evaluation of blighted property.

**County Court, Judge Pete Runnels-** Nic Calvin, the Public Health Director will be leaving to take a job in California. Another contract for mapping services has been signed with Union. We have strong expertise in this area, and Bryce now has some capacity to work with other counties. This means additional revenue to the county. A local employee has taken it upon themselves to go through the training and certifications for food service inspections and environmental (septic) inspections so those will soon be available at the county by in house staff. The Transient Lodging Tax will be back on the ballot in the May primaries. If passed, the additional revenue will fund Search and Rescue, Fairgrounds, and Economic Development efforts. Budget process begins for the county today.

**City of Hines, Kirby Letham-** the groundbreaking ceremony for the Harney Homes, First Home was earlier this afternoon. There were about 15 people in attendance. Their next project is the wastewater treatment plan.

**Burns Paiute Tribe, Logan Hunt –**no report

**Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith-** it was great to see all the partners on the First Home project from the real estate partners, city and county leaders and Susan from GEODC. It took a lot of work by all involved to bring the project to this point. He spent the afternoon meeting with clients and working on financing packages for two local businesses. We will also partner with the community branding process developing among local leaders.

**Harney County School District #3, Steve Quick**-the walk through of Lincoln school was held this afternoon for developers to see the property. They are busy with year-end recruiting for several retiring teachers and staff. They continue to look for a band teacher for the district. The Strategic Plan has been published and he provided copies for the group. The two main goals developed from this work was facilities work and increased graduation rates. They are planning a November 2023 bond effort for the facilities improvements.

**Committee Reports as needed:**

**Housing Committee:** the group will plan another meeting soon; we have other projects to work on. Greg reported that the Oregon Dept. of Revenue are working on rulemaking for the legislative tax break allowance for small counties. Discussion was held about lots with infrastructure in place already as opposed to those that need the land developed. Fred suggested a way to fill the gap could be to establish a fund to circulate money back to the system vs. counting on grants to fund water and sewer etc. Once lots are improved, they can be sold to developers. A revolving loan fund could also establish a payout plan based on hitting construction milestones.

1. **Focus Work:**

**Harney County Brownfield Coalition Report- Keith Ziobron, Cardno:**

Keith gave a brief history of the 2020 grant the county received for brownfield work from EPA. Cardno was hired to manage the work and the reporting. To date 12 Phase I evaluations have been performed and most went on to indicate a Phase II. The mapping done of potential county sites for study was completed and they will be working to migrate that to the county GIS system so it can be accessed. The Development Plan for Lincoln School property has resulted in the current RFP process. Bids to purchase and develop the property will be due back to the school district in mid-May. More grants are coming out from EPA this summer.

**Discussion held:** Cardno will continue to keep OTEC in the loop for potential cooperative projects, as requested by Tucker Billman. Dan Brown made the comment that property owners are afraid of having to perform expensive clean up if evaluated. Options may be available for clean up in the upcoming grant cycle. Cardno can also be used as a resource for getting this work done.

**Harney County Economic Development District Plan Review:** Small group discussions were held around the Action Matrix. Comments and suggestions were compiled in the document and is available for public review on the Harney County Economic Development website.