

Regular Meeting

Board of Directors of the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority

February 2, 2018

The Board of Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority met in its second meeting on February 2, 2018 at 10:00am in the Commissioner's Room, Scott County Courthouse, Scottsburg, Indiana.

Directors present at the meeting were Dana Huber, John Jones, Steve Meyer, and Kenny Rush. Kevin Kellems called into the meeting.

I. Call to order and Introductions

Dana Huber called the meeting to order at 10:06am. The Board members introduced themselves as did the public. Dana briefly shared that the Stellar Communities is being restructured to take a regional approach and focus on collaboration among cities, towns, and counties.

II. Public Comments

Anna Murray commented that she desired increased communication, such as an event for mayors or commissions to discuss common problems. Ideas will be documented in the minutes for future planning purposes.

III. New Business

A. Steve Rush made a motion to approve the January minutes and **Ken Rush** seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

B. Dana Huber announced that the next meeting would be on Friday, March 2 in Jefferson County. **Wendy Dant Chesser** asked for suggestions for the non-confirmed sites and mentioned that Ashley Snelling with 1si will post the meeting notice and agenda.

C. Wendy presented the updated Conflict of Interest Declaration. Steve Meyer made a motion to accept the updated Conflict of Interest Declaration. John Jones seconded. Motion approved 4-0. The Directors signed the reviewed copies.

D. Wendy presented the review of the MOU for 1si Administration of RDA. The RDA will have to approve and send to the 1si Board of Directors. The MOU provides information about the RDA, 1si and the background indicates what 1si's role was in 2014, 2015 and what has been done in 2017 to get where are today. The purpose outlines the commitment of 1si to

January 2, 2018

Page 1 of 3

support the RDA. Wendy explained reporting, funding, and noted that the MOU goes away if the RDA dissolves. The authorized contacts are Wendy and Dana and the Directors are to refer questions from the public back to Wendy. **Steve Meyer** made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understand. **John Jones** seconded. Motioned approved 4-0. The next 1st Board of Director's meeting is Thursday, February 22 and Wendy will update the RDA Directors after the meeting.

E. Wendy presented the review of notice to Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) of RDA formation. The letter was drafted by Wendy to the President of IEDC, Elaine Bedel to notify the IEDC of the existence of the RDA. There is a delay in receiving minutes from the County Council as well as County Commissioners meeting minutes from Scott County. The Oaths of Office have been signed and the Conflict of Interest policies will be signed today. The by-laws were ratified at the last RDA Board meeting. The Directors approved the letter to be signed and sent.

F. Wendy presented the funding request to IEDC. On January 5, Wendy asked for \$150,000-\$250,000 grant to update the Regional Development Plan. On January 29, she received a link to submit for the IEDC Innovation Funding Application. The RDA will need to submit a project description with public vetting and include Jefferson County in the existing "2015 Southern Indiana Regional Development Plan." Wendy will develop the timeline and detailed budget. **Kenny Rush** accepted the proposal to give 1st permission to move forward with getting correct information to IEDC for potential grant opportunity. **Steve Meyer** seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

G. Wendy presented the SB353/hb1048 re: Regional Development Tax Credit, which is an incentive for private developers to come in and start working on projects that the RDA are currently are working on. The maximum award a taxpayer may receive for a project is determined by the plan in which the project is included. If the project is in a local development plan, the qualified investment is 15% and 25% if the project is part of a regional plan. More will be discussed at the April meeting.

H. Wendy presented the overview of regional water supply study by the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA). The overview included a 14 county study area and 91 public water supply utilities. The RDA could help solve the issue as all 5 counties of the RDA are included.

IV. Old Business

A. Wendy presented the "Regional Case Study: Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership." It is a reminder of why we have the Regional Cities Initiative and that great things can be done with the RDA. A background was given on Northeast Indiana, their 3 main goals and their projects.

V. Public Comments

The RDA Board would like people to come to the meetings and help collaborate, such as Greg Wathen. Future meetings may have topics of interest added to the agenda. Wendy will work on this for the May meeting and give three options.

Charlie Smith with the Building Development Association of Southern Indiana (BDASI) introduced himself noted that Jefferson County is uniquely different. He recommended reaching out to individual municipalities that have a master plan that has been vetted. Each community has unique situation that needs to be taken into account. He added that with Stellar Communities could be a little more expedient as multiple developers have contacted him and are inquiring about the funding situation. He stated that the RDA is a great opportunity to step out ahead and take control for developing. A subcommittee was mentioned as an option to figure out a separate process. **Dana** offered to actively research individual counties in the next 60 days.

Jacob C. asked to increase the timeline of the RFP if funding becomes available. **Wendy** asked if anyone opposed to start circulating an RFP now pending on funding. **Kenny Rush** made a motion to approve the circulation of an RFP now. **John Jones** seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Anna Murray asked about a web presence for the RDA group, such as a Facebook page to publish meeting times, location, and share dialogue without a formal meeting. Wendy noted that she will do more research as we have to be prepared to respond. Dana stated that until funding becomes available, this will be put on hold and will discuss the best format in the meantime.

Interest was expressed in a future trip to Fort Wayne; preferably in the fall.

VI. Adjournment

Dana Huber stated that the Board will meet again on Friday, March 2 at 10:00am. The meeting will take place in Jefferson County, Madison.

Steve Meyer motioned to adjourn at 11:37am. Kenny Rush seconded. Motion approved 4-0.