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OFFICE OF THE MANAGER

SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
SRDC Conference Room
8:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Doug Gurney, Patti Putnam, Bob Kendall, Mark Tanny, Dale Williamson, John Tansey, Kristi Morris, Caitlin Christiana, Heather Hartford, Paul Kowalski, Bob Flint

Absent: Jason Thom, Sam Coleman, Tom Kennedy

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by Doug Gurney, President.

- 1) Review of minutes for 12/22/15: Motion to accept the December Minutes as submitted made by Patti Putnam, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved.
- 2) Review of December Financials: Motion to accept the December Financials as submitted made by Bob Kendall, seconded by Patti Putnam. So moved. Bob once again stated how helpful it has been having Cynthia Porter doing the financial piece for the office.
- 3) Executive Director's Report: Bob will be helping out the town of Chester, next Monday evening developing an Economic Development component for their Town Plan. All Town Plans must now have this component. The Board reviewed the housing data that has been put together. This is one piece of a bigger puzzle. More information and discussion will be forthcoming.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a. J & L 1 Update: So much has been done recently with this project. The EPA will be here in two weeks for a meeting and site walk through. So far through conversations it appears that they (the EPA) will be taking over certain portions of the sight clean up. This means they will hire agencies and companies to do all aspects of the job. This includes the large "grinding swarf" that is the river bank and bed. The river will be temporarily diverted to aid this cleanup. This is a monumental task for anyone. The second biggest concern is the asbestos and PCBs. There is asbestos all through the building. This must be contained and removed before any type of demolition work can take place. Hopefully by the end of summer the new Corrective Action Plan (CAP) will be complete. As much as we all would like to see the building come down this summer that is most likely not the reality at this point.
 - b. Jones Center Status: The potential new tenant status is still pending. The PCM and Whitney Blake transitions went very smoothly. Heather is still working on cleaning up the space and liquidating as much as possible.
 - c. Bryants Building: Heather met with several firms that responded to a RFP

(Request for Proposal) for the beginning of the asbestos removal in the building. At least six firms viewed the building. The focus will be on the ends of the building that we know we will be keeping. Work will begin this spring. We have the \$200, 00.00 EPA grant to take care of this. We are ever mindful of historic preservation as we move forward.

- d. CDBG-DR2 Grant Closeout: Closing out the Grant is coming to an end. Paul has one affidavit left for signature. He is confident that all will be in order.
- e. Blake Hill Preserves Project: The Corporate Resolution needs to be redone at this time. Bob Kendall made a motion to redo the Corporate Resolution as needed, seconded by Patti. So moved.
We are hopeful that the loan closing will take place in mid-February. The three entered bids came in well over what was budgeted for the project. We will be meeting with the two lower bidders to see what adjustments can be done.
- f. CRDC/WIC/SRDC Discussion: We continue to provide help to WIC in their work to potentially acquire the Former Goodyear property in Windsor. Bob LaPlante will be going up to do a visual assessment on the buildings etc. The plan would be for SRDC to manage the property and buildings after the purchase has been completed by WIC. A July transition is quite probable.

5) **Other Business:**

- a. Economic Development District: There is a great deal to do for the EDD by July 1, 2016. The SRDC has a Workforce Development study and Business Climate survey to write, distribute, and collect, along with helping Two Rivers RPC. They are working on a "Creative Economy" data gathering project for the entire district area.
- b. Banking – Corporate Resolution: Due to an unexpected situation, Bob Kendall will not continue as the Board Secretary/Treasurer. Mark Tanny will replace him. Two motions were needed for this. The first to designate Mark as Secretary/Treasurer and the second to designate Mark Tanny, Bob Flint, and Doug Gurney as signees. Patti Putnam made the two motions, both motions seconded by John Tansey. So moved.
- c. Legislative Update: Yesterday Bob gave testimony before the House Commerce committee. The ACCD is asking to change the funding for RDC's and RPC's from contracts to grants, which is how it was previously. This wouldn't change anything but, it would simplify things for all. Currently, we're not receiving our July 1st payment until late August! If this change takes place, payments will be received on time.
The underlying issue still remains. There appears to be no real consensus on what economic development is. Bob stated this was evidenced in January at a focus group meeting he had helped BDCC organize for the State. Bob thanked Dale for going and asked if she agreed with his assessment. She confirmed his view. VEGI is facing much of the same, if not more of these issues as they are up for reauthorization. Imerys will have their VEGI application review on Thursday. Bob stated all VEGI applications in the SRDC region over the last ten years had been approved. He hoped the same would happen for Imerys.

d. Legislative Forum: SRDC along with SOM, and The Chamber of Commerce, are sponsoring a forum at the Howard Dean Center on March 7th, 8:00 am. All members of the Legislature have been invited, along with the membership of all organizations involved, and area business people.

- 6) Executive Session: Motion made by Kristi Morris at 8:44 am to go into Executive Session, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved. A motion was made at 9:14 am by Mark Tanny to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved.
- 7) Adjourn: Doug Gurney adjourned the meeting at 9:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Clifford

Next Meeting – February 23, 2015

Enc: January Board Meeting Minutes
Financial Report
Membership Report
Executive Director's Report (to be emailed)