

CITY OF PHILLIPSBURG
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Phillipsburg City Office
945 Second St.
October 14, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Lance Munyon, Scott Aust, Jayne Holle, Angie Wells, Rhonda Keesee, Dustin Springer, Stacie Ricker (via Zoom), Tyson Wisinger (via Zoom).

Also attending: Caleb Breon

Absent: Morris Engle, Mildred Hadley, Gene Bugbee, Max Dibble, Steven Rust, Taylor Redinger, Mike Gower.

Without a consensus, the meeting was for information purposes only and no formal actions were taken.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Munyon called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

CALL CENTERS

Munyon provided an update regarding discussions with entrepreneur Jim Bob Morris about the prospect of bringing two call centers to Phillipsburg to handle customer assistance calls for two ventures.

PARKS & REC

Munyon discussed forming a Parks & Rec Advisory Board to provide a means for the public to provide input and guidance on those activities going on in the city, especially as the Vision projects are completed. Munyon asked those present to suggest names of people who might be interested on serving on this advisory board.

Dustin Springer advised that community members have been working on a draft charter for a Park & Rec Advisory Board and a potential membership list.

GRANTS

Aust reported on several grants received and applied for over the past several months.

Hansen Grant. A grant application is being prepared for submittal this month to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to support construction of a roughly one-mile walking/bicycling trail at the city park; a splash pad at the city park; and Phase I of the sports complex, which will include earthwork and initial site improvements.

Recreational Trails Program. An application has been submitted for park trail funding through the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism that would provide up to 80% reimbursement of eligible costs for the project. The project's cost estimate is \$100,000.

Two grant administrators made a site visit in early October to take a look at the park's topography and learn more about the project. A grant meeting will take place in December with awards announced in the spring.

Transportation Alternatives Application. A grant is being submitted to KDOT for the park trail and hard surface connecting trails throughout the city. The grant would provide up to 80 percent reimbursement of the cost.

Public Works applied for sidewalk replacement as part of Safe Routes to School along Second Street, Fisher Drive and up Seventh to State.

An additional application is for funding to create hard surface pathways from the park to 2nd; Seventh St north of State to E Street; E to 1st Street; and F back to the park. Future phases include creating links once development occurs between Fisher Drive and the airport, and a link along Park Drive between Huck Boyd to the sports complex and south to the hospital walking trail.

CDBG-CV update. Twelve businesses applied for ED grants. Funds have been received and checks totaling approximately \$132,000 have been issued to businesses. Another \$35,000 is still available for food programs. So far, one has submitted a request and another program expressed interest.

Armory generator grants. Over the summer, Morgan and Cole Foundations each provided \$5,000 for a roughly \$28,000 project to install a generator and equipment at the armory, which will allow it to be used as an emergency shelter and overflow site for the hospital when the need arises.

FNB scoreboards. First National Bank has agreed to provide \$10,000 for scoreboards at the sports complex

Merklein Foundation check. The Merklein Foundation provided \$1,500 toward the sports complex project

FUNDRAISING

Aust said due to Covid, the community telethon has been moved to next spring. Currently, the plan is to hold it on Memorial Day weekend when alumni are here. Aust said an effort is underway to allow donations for Vision projects to be made online using credit

cards or platforms such as PayPal and Venmo. The idea is to make donating as easy as possible.

Other fundraising ideas were suggested including an online auction, a raffle/drawing of some kind, and sports/recreation tournaments. The board also discussed selling fence slats around the splash pad, similar to a fundraising method used for the park playground.

MEMBER REPORTS

Wells discussed Bingo activities at Agra that might be worth a look at doing in Phillipsburg as entertainment or a special event.

Holle said the hospital is interviewing CFO candidates, and mentioned some of the new Covid related equipment designed to protect the public. Holle said a new occupational therapist has started and the ER has new doors that automatically open without needing to be touched. In addition, the hospital has hired a consultant to perform a facilities master plan that will incorporate feedback from the community.

Munyon asked board members in attendance if they would have any objections if the City Council changed the board membership to include the PCED director in place of PCED board chairman. No attendees had an issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered executive session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss acquisition of property. The board reopened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Scott Aust, Community Development Director