



CITY OF FRANKLIN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

September 8, 2015

Members Present:

Ken Austin	President
Jake Sappenfield	Vice-President
Josh DeArmitt	Secretary
John Ditmars	Member
H. Lee Hodgen	Member

Others Present:

Rob H. Schafstall	Legal Counsel
Krista Linke	Director of Community Development
Julie Spate	Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Ken Austin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Lee Hodgen made a motion to approve the August 11th, 2015 minutes with the correction of Jake Sappenfield as Vice President instead of Mr. Hodgen. Josh DeArmitt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Economic Development Fee Proposals – Tabled from the August Meeting:

Krista Linke introduced this old business that all proposals remain the same from the last meeting, and representatives from all the organizations are present for this meeting. Mr. Austin reviewed of the extensive discussion that has gone on over state statute IC 6-1.1-12.1-14 Local Government Authority to Impose Fee with Consent of Property Owner; Fee Amount; Distribution. Item D states “Fees collected under this section must be distributed to one or more public or non-profit entities established to promote economic development within the corporate limits of the city, town or county served by the designated body.” Mr. Austin stated that due to the fact that there are a number of organizations asking for consideration in this process, perhaps another look needs to be taken at the particular definition of economic development. Mr. Austin asked for confirmation of this from John Ditmars. Mr. Ditmars asked whether Mr. Austin’s meaning was with regards to the purpose of the funds or distribution method. Mr. Austin stated that discussion had been held about an effort to clarify and streamline. Mr. Ditmars expressed questions of protocol and process. Having these funds to distribute is fairly new and the “how to” piece of it seems to be wherein the struggle lies from an equity perspective. All applicants are well deserved. How are the distributions made equitably and in an informed fashion by the Board? Going forward, how do we streamline or maybe act on a recommendation of some sort? Mr. Ditmars believes this must be determined as the risk of an unintended consequence is high. Mr. Austin agrees and feels all applicants are deserving, but at what level to be equal and fair. The example of a collaborative effort between

Discover Downtown Franklin's (DDF's) signage proposal and Aspire Johnson County's computer app proposal would be great to see. But does the EDC have the monies to make that happen now, and Mr. Austin anticipates the answer to likely be no. With regards to timing, this may not be the time for new signage with all the civic construction going on, hating to see new signs torn up due to construction demands. It would be nice to see collaborative efforts among some of the groups to achieve common goals. Mr. Austin asked Mr. Ditmars or Mr. DeArmitt if they wanted to speak to these thoughts at all. Mr. Ditmars agrees with seeking how we might work together whether appropriate. He identifies a second issue of how to substantiate projects. With DDF as an example, Mr. Ditmars thinks their project is a great idea but doesn't know the background of the project as to how the need was determined for Franklin, is it the right time, etc. Josh DeArmitt described difficulty in considering how each project effects economic development overall. Mr. Austin asked Mr. Hodgen if he had anything to add. Mr. Hodgen feels Discover Downtown Franklin should receive a sizeable distribution as it is one of our most important organizations. All submissions are for a good cause, but funds to distribute are limited. Mr. Ditmars used the Franklin Chamber of Commerce's two-part request of funds to purchase office equipment vs. money for publications that would springboard to more dollars. Mr. Ditmars supports distribution of seed monies over paying for a project entirely. Mr. Austin clarified the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, citing that \$3,985 accomplishes everything except sponsorship materials. Mr. Austin asked how the Board would like to move ahead with distribution recommendations. Mr. Hodgen asked Mr. Austin if he was asking for a motion or calling for discussion. Mr. Austin deferred to asking what Mr. Ditmars recommended. Mr. Ditmars suggested doing a percentage of each organization's funding request, thinking of seeding the projects instead of total funding. Mr. Ditmars asked if funds can be committed and held. Rob Schafstall confirmed yes. Mr. Ditmars asked if Aspire Johnson County qualifies since it is a city purpose but a county organization. Mr. Schafstall said they do qualify, and it is approximately \$3,900 per organization if simply divided. Ms. Linke would like a meeting following this one when proposals aren't be considered to determine criteria for the future. Maybe that is different every year, but more detailed guidelines need to be given to the applicants. Mr. Ditmars confirmed that we are missing a protocol and need to do a better job of execution. Mr. Austin confirmed the discussion of operational vs. non-operational expenses. Mr. Austin highlighted that a \$3,900 disbursement would cover DDF and Franklin Chamber of Commerce's computer needs. Mr. DeArmitt supports coming up with a protocol as the more applicants we have, the thinner the money is spread. He is also more in favor of special projects than operational expenses as is Mr. Austin.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to disburse the available funds equally among the applicants. Mr. DeArmitt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Linke explained that the EDC recommendation will go before City Council at their Monday, September 21, 6:00 p.m. meeting in Council Chambers. City Council typically has followed the EDC recommendation and does not ask for organizational presentations at that meeting.

Mr. Austin asked if any applicants would like to speak. Mr. Austin asked if Greg Moore would like to say anything. Mr. Moore expressed thanks for the funds received for the Franklin Education Foundation. Mr. Austin asked if anyone else would like to speak.

New Business:

None.

Other Business:

None.

Mr. Austin asked if Ms. Linke had anything further to add. It is Mr. Austin's hope that next month's meeting will discuss some of what was covered in this meeting in preparation for next year's applicants. Mr. Austin asked if Mr. Hodgen or Mr. Schafstall had anything to add.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeArmitt and a second by Mr. Ditmars. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of October, 2015.

Ken Austin, President

Josh DeArmitt, Secretary