



CITY OF FRANKLIN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

August 11, 2015

Members Present:

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

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:

Jake Sappenfield made a motion to approve the June 9th, 2015 minutes as presented. Lee Hodgen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Economic Development Fee Proposals:

Krista Linke introduced the annual economic development fees. The county has received a total of \$23,530.42 in economic development fees this year, ready for disbursement to qualifying non-profits and public entities which promote economic development within Franklin. She suggested that there may be some additional criteria the board wants to establish starting next year to define qualifications for non-profit applicants.

Mr. Austin asked the board if they are comfortable with the statute as it stands. He asked Rob Schafstall about the definition of public entities. Mr. Schafstall gave a school as an example of a public entity.

Mr. Hodgen asked how this year's funds compare to last year, and Ms. Linke confirmed that it is a little less this year.

Discover Downtown Franklin:

Tara Payne, Executive Director of Discover Downtown Franklin, presented their first request for a computer. Many grants DDF applies for do not cover operating expenses, so this is a definite need. Their second request is for way finding signs at \$2,000 per sign, giving directions and current event schedules in the downtown area. This has been a difficult project to get funding

for as DDF's grant requests are somewhat limited due to not working with an "oppressed population."

Mr. Austin affirmed the signage concept and the ability to change them out to keep updated. Ms. Payne identified that Danny Causey with Franklin Heritage Architectural Salvage has agreed to design the annual inserts for the next four years and local merchant Gordon from Artistic Ironworks has agreed to do the iron works. He is also the artist who made the Farmers Market sign.

Franklin Chamber of Commerce:

Janice Bullman, Director of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, described the current growth and development of the chamber. Programming and services is a key area in this. FCC is requesting Surface Pro laptops. A second request is for a publication package. Coming in September is a new sponsorship development program which the publication package request would cover. Their last request is for a HP Office Jet printer. The previous lease agreement is up and the current printer dysfunctional, so this is a necessity. They are requesting a total of \$4,985.

Franklin Development Corporation:

Steve Woods, FDC president, stated their request for startup monies for a blighted housing project. They request \$7,500 to pay for fees to secure property and maintenance in preparation to turn the property over to a seller or local contractor who would return the house to a sellable property. This request would help cover seller fees as well. The sale of these properties will generate some income back into the project to help make it self-sustaining.

Mr. Austin asked if monies are already earmarked for the purchase of the homes. Mr. Woods responded that FDC does not, but this would start the project and it would eventually become self-sustaining with the buying and selling of the properties.

Franklin Education Foundation:

Bee Northcott with Franklin Education Connection presented their request for \$7,500 to support FEF's Study Connection, The Education Foundation and the College/Career Readiness Initiative.

Franklin Heritage, Inc.:

Rob Shilts, Executive Director of Franklin Heritage & Artcraft Theatre, explained that two of their three projects submitted last year were able to be completed. This year's submission to EDC then includes the handicap ramp, carried over from last year, and an enhanced WIFI install at the theater before Johnson County Dancing with the Stars.

Johnson County Development Corporation:

Dana Monson presented their request for Aspire Johnson County to create a walking tour of downtown Franklin as a pilot project that other communities could model. JCDC would work with Franklin Community High School tech students under the leadership of Matt Sprout to produce the short videos for this project and the phone application allowing the public to access the walking tour information.

Mr. Austin cited that the total funds available don't match the total of requests submitted. Mr. Ditmars stated a thought to focus on actual needs vs. "nice to have". Josh DeArmitt expressed the difficulty in deciding what constitutes a need vs. want for each organization. Mr. Austin asked if this should be decided today or put to another meeting.

Mr. Hodgen made a motion to defer the final allocation decision to the next meeting. Mr. Ditmars seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Linke explained that the fees are only collected once a year so there is only one disbursement. They are collected against the first half of the year for the entire year.

Mr. Austin asked Mr. Schafstall how it should be handled when EDC board members are involved with any of the organizations presenting. Mr. Schafstall confirmed they can vote but should disclose their connection. They just can't receive personal benefit from any of the submitting organizations. Mr. Austin also suggested they take a look at the actual statute and determine if any changes need to be made. Mr. Sappenfield highlighted the need to insure the applicants are actually involved in economic development.

Ms. Linke reminded everyone that September's meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Ms. Payne reminded that the Beer & Bluegrass Festival is Aug. 22. Mr. Shilts highlighted an Angola historic theater group coming to visit the Artcraft this Friday.

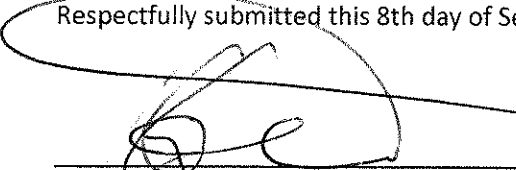
Sonya Ware-Meguiar, CEO of Girls Inc., spoke about their programming and offerings.

Other Business:

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of September, 2015.



Ken Austin, President

Josh DeArmitt, Secretary