

Town of Indian Trail



INDIAN TRAIL

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Economic Development Advisory Committee

May 4, 2015

7:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Maureen Mulhall, Chair, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The following members of the governing body were present:

Committee Members: Maureen Mulhall; Gordon Daniels, Town Councilman; Darlene Zamer; Sherry Helms; Chris Platé; Bob TenHaaf; Al King; and Pat Kahle.

Staff Members: Kelly Barnhardt, Economic Development Director; and Lindsey Edmonds, Communications Coordinator

Absent: Tripp Melton; Ryan Wetherington; Joe Fivas, Town Manager; Andy Morrison; and Steve Barnes.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

Bob TenHaaf made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting, and Al King seconded his motion.

OLD BUSINESS REVIEW

Al King asked for an update regarding the Chestnut Parkway, and Kelly Barnhardt responded that the Parkway had a soft opening the week of May 4, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony on May 12.

STAFF UPDATES FROM REQUESTS OF INFORMATION

None.

Committee Member Terms

Kelly Barnhardt explained what the by-laws outlined regarding the terms and that the terms were split up accordingly. Al King asked if the committee should stagger terms more than staff's suggested terms to ensure better continuity. Gordon Daniels seconded this idea. Al King also

asked if there was a term limit, and Kelly Barnhardt responded that there was no term limit. Al King suggested that the committee amend the by-laws to include a term limit of two or three limits, and Kelly Barnhardt responded that by-law amendments require approval of Indian Trail's Town Council.

Monroe-Union County Economic Development Update

Chris Platé updated the committee on the work and history of the Monroe-Union County Economic Development. He explained that Indian Trail has the most similar economic development to the City of Monroe and then presented the goals of the Monroe-Union County Economic Development: \$60 million of new investment and 300 new jobs. Chris said that for 2015, the organization so far has created approximately 900 jobs and have generated a \$140 million investment, the second largest investment in Union County history. Chris Platé also mentioned that a benefit of the Monroe-Union County Economic Development is that the organization promotes towns and cities through the county, included Indian Trail.

Pat Kahle remarked that the last two successful projects were because there were move-in ready buildings available. She added that she believes the combination of merging Monroe and Union County was the best thing in economic development for Union County and that from the Union County Chamber of Commerce's perspective, Chris and his team have been doing great things for the county's economic development.

Al King recommended that Chris Platé give a similar presentation to the Indian Trail Town Council, and Gordon Daniels seconded this suggestion. Maureen Mulhall suggested that the EDAC make an official recommendation to have this presentation given to Town Council after budget season, and Bob TenHaaf seconded this.

Sub-Committee Updates

Product Development – Tripp Melton, Andy Morrison:

None.

Corridor Plan – Ryan Wetherington, Darlene Zamer:

Darlene Zamer asked about the impact NCDOT's superstreets may have. Chris Platé answered that NCDOT is considering doing the Michigan Left for Rocky River Road and then will act according to that success. Al King mentioned that a similar street in Concord had tremendous success.

Town Hall:

Bob TenHaaf and Sherry Helms have been meeting to discuss ideas, and these ideas will be presented soon. Al King asked if the committee remained firmly in favor of the town hall project, and members said yes.

Town Beautification:

Al King stated that the Town of Indian Trail's grounds look better than ever. Darlene Zamer noted that the Town Hall and beautification will set an example for Indian Trail's businesses. Maureen Mulhall suggested that part of beautification is creating a "hometown emotional attachment" that she sees in her own hometown. Such an attachment, she added, creates next generation businesses. Pat Kahle furthered that thought and said that quality of life, education, product development, incentives and beautification are all interconnected.

Monroe Bypass:

Chris Platé and Pat Kahle said that property is being bought along the proposed project and some construction may be starting soon. As per the lawsuit, Pat said, an answer from the district court is expected in the upcoming months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roger Fish seconded the motion to have Chris Platé give a presentation on the Monroe-Union County Economic Development to the Indian Trail Town Council.

Michael Faulkenberry said that the Town Public Works Department is small and more Public Works employees need to be added to the department in order to maintain beautification efforts and to maintain the 60 miles of roads in Indian Trail. He recommended that the committee suggest to the Indian Trail Town Council to add more Public Works employees in order to have more manpower.

ADJOURNMENT

Al King made a motion to adjourn, and Chris Platé seconded the motion.