

Economic Development Advisory Board

October 5, 2021, Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Vice-Chair Wayne Stephany called to order the regular meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board at 3:30 PM on October 5, 2021, at Memorial Hall and via conference call.

II. Roll call

The following members were present:

Chair Chuck Goad (16-0)
Vice-Chair Wayne Stephany (16-0)
Paul Yaroslaski (13-3)
Lori Kelley (14-2)
Jason Curtis (15-1)
Brian Hight (6-3)
Lisa Wilson (Ex-Officio)
Tabitha Snodgrass (Ex-Officio)
April Nutt (Ex-Officio)

The following members were absent:

The following staff were present:

Kelly Passauer, City Manager
David Cowan, Assistant City Manager
Lacey Lies, Director of Finance
Jordan Bagley, I.T.
Administrative Aide Lydia Collins

The following visitors were present:

III. Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2021

A motion was made by Lori Kelley to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021, meeting, which was seconded by Brian Hight. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Items for Discussion

A. Update from the Data Sub-Group Committee

- Training Program Results

Lori Kelley said that fourteen people attended the training. The speaker said the first four things he did when he came to town was Google, Google, Google, Google. That's how he found out how to get to Independence, where to eat and where to get a hotel. One thing the attendees learned about was how hashtags are important. Kansas' hashtag is #tothestars.

Tabatha Snodgrass said she posted #wearemainstreet and has over one hundred thousand views.

Lori Kelley said it was a struggle to get people to attend the training but the people that attended felt it was key to be there. The seminar was downloaded to YouTube.

Brian Hight said the workshop was good where they walked through the Google experience with everyone. Everyone left with at least that piece completely finished.

Chuck Goad asked if there would be a follow-up, hands-on time.

Lori Kelley said we could do it digitally or in an evening.

Chuck Goad asked if we have something we could use to bring awareness.

Lori Kelley said with the video available we could talk to area groups and they could help raise the digital interest.

Chuck Goad said education could matter on why people should help with this, if people understood the importance of why it is done.

Lacey Lies said it also gives data that is helpful and it is showing nine thousand clicks a week.

Chuck Goad said, say that nine thousand are looking at this how can we do something with it.

Wayne Stephany said maybe a follow-up in the newspaper, some interviews on how people have used what they learned.

B. Update on Internet Access

- Jordan Bagley – Internet speed

Jordan Bagley asked the committee about what kind of struggles that some of the businesses have.

Tabatha Snodgrass said in the downtown the internet goes out so some of the businesses are using two providers. At a previous meeting, the Sparklight guy said the extra hundred dollars spent on the second provider is just an insurance policy. She said one day the entire downtown internet

service went down and no payments could be made.

Jordan Bagley said most businesses are utilizing old pieces of equipment from Sparklight. The contracts customers have include the newer pieces of equipment. They are running on a 10/100. The new pieces run on a gig. Speedtest.net is the best way to get the data. It does not matter what time of day it is. One of the problems may be that some downtown businesses may have the residential package instead of a business package. Having fiber would bring us up to the best service. Starlink is another way to get internet and it is pretty fast. It is good for people who cannot get service because they are outside of the city. On bandwidth you can reach out to Sparklight and there is a website to calculate bandwidth.

Chuck Goad asked if fiber is sustainable and will it be outdone by someone else.

Jordan Bagley said it is definitely sustainable. Companies like Elon Musk's Starlink are moving forward too. Electric companies usually pair their lines with fiber. Evergy might be looking at doing that in the future.

Lori Kelley asked if there was an option of using the fiber that was put in for Founder's Place. There are grant funds and could we capitalize on that with the downtown infrastructure.

Jordan Bagley said that while we are working on the City wi-fi we can hook up more to downtown businesses and spread it.

Chuck Goad asked if the G is comparable to fiber.

Jordan Bagley said that the G in 3G, 4G or 5G just means generation, it is not comparable to fiber.

April Nutt said that AT&T restricts us from reselling, what if we could set it up separately so we could resell it.

Jordan Bagley said it is a wire trunk that goes from a switch to the line and could be put on poles around town.

David Cowan said Evergy will not let us have anything on their poles.

Chuck Goad asked if we bought a fiber connection what the cost would be.

Jordan Bagley said it was less than \$50,000 for a couple blocks for Founder's Place.

Chuck Goad said if we put a system on the north and south end of town we would have to find out how to run lines since Evergy will not allow it to be run from their poles. We need to begin a conversation with Evergy on making an agreement.

Kelly Passauer said you can put things on the downtown buildings.

Lacey Lies said that there are a lot of issues getting with property owners.

Chuck Goad feels we should negotiate a contract with Evergy or see when the franchise agreement is to be renewed and negotiate a new agreement.

C. ROZ funds letter – tabled from last meeting.

Lacey Lies wrote a letter in support of relocation incentives. She asked if the committee wanted anything to be specified and whether it should be presented on an agenda, on a letter or some other way.

Chuck Goad said he thought it would be on a letter from the committee.

Chuck Goad moved to have the wording in the letter to specify ROZ and to send the letter. Paul Yaroslaski seconded. Motion carried.

Kelly Passauer asked Lacey Lies if they were making the decision pretty quickly.

Lacey Lies said she did not know, some of the issues have been pretty broad.

April Nutt said they were not looking to make a decision on the ARPA funds until next year. Third class cities and rural water will be first half of funds and the rest of the funds next year.

Lori Kelley felt that we should have a call to action on the letter and specify a timeframe.

Lacey Lies said she could put on the letter for a 2022 decision.

D. Other items for discussion.

- Lacey Lies said there is a Community Outlook Conference with CEDBR in Coffeyville on Monday. She thought that if anyone was available it would be good to bring the information back to the meeting. Tabatha Snodgrass, Lisa Wilson and April Nutt are signed up to go.

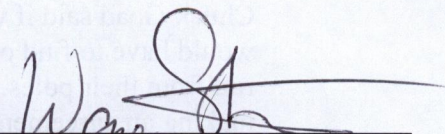
E. Internet Subcommittee

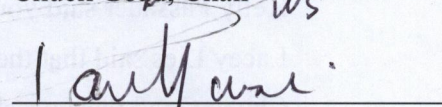
- Chuck Goad asked if David Cowan, Jason Curtis, Paul Yaroslaski, Wayne Stephany and Jordan Bagley would serve on a subcommittee on the internet issues. They all agreed.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Wayne Stephany, seconded by Lori Kelley. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved by:


Chuck Goad, Chair *WS*


Paul Yaroslaski, Secretary