

Economic Sub Committee Meeting January 7, 2008

Attendees:

Anita Williams
Ken Blackmon
Lillian Blackmon
Jodie Wyatt
Wilbur Everett
Brenda Hawkes
Pam Ligon
Donna Hilton
George Jinks
Shelley Loe
Phil Baldwin
Jimmy Bolt
Phil Rice
Euodias Goza
Glen Beedle
Chester Clark

Minutes

Goal 4:

- The process of hiring the Executive Director for the EDCCC is ongoing which will assist in bringing all of this information together.
- 4c: The EDCCC is pulling together the industrial and manufacturing data for Clark County which will be placed on the EDCCC website once developed. The Arkadelphia Small Business Development Center will compile the office and small business space available but will turn the long term updating information back over to grow to EDCCC once completed.
- 4d: UALR is bidding on the demographic and labor market study for Clark County. Once the bid is in the information will be shared with HSU and OBU to see if they are interested in providing the work at the same or less cost as UALR.
- 4h (i): Dr Clark has contacted Dollar General who came to Amity and viewed an available facility that has 3000 square feet. Dollar General stated that 9000 square feet was needed. Dr. Clark stated that discussions are ongoing with Dollar General Management.

Goal 5:

- 5a (iii): The city of Arkadelphia is in discussions with various Arkadelphia residents on how to best honor Dr. Martin Luther King. This is ongoing.
- 5a (iv): Jimmy Bolt stated that there are funding issues but engineering fees have been paid and some work is pending for 2009 such as widening the intersection of 6th and Caddo.
- 5a (vi): Discussion in regards to renaming 10th street (Highway 67) from the Caddo River bridge to Clinton St. The name would change to University Parkway if 50% of the property owners agree. Highway 67 would not change but the 10th street name would change. In regards to widening the street the Arkadelphia Master Plan and at least 3 bids must be in place before discussions with state officials begins this process.
- *Jimmy Bolt will begin contact with property owners to survey whether they agree to the change or not.
- *Jimmy Bolt will solicit the bids for widening 10th street in the areas that this change is possible.

Goal 6:

- 6c: Grant proposal for an internet hub in Clark County is currently being written through CCIC but will be submitted through the city of Arkadelphia or through the county.
- *Shelley Loe is to contact the Public Service Commission for a listing of all providers for the county.
- Shelley Loe to survey the municipalities in Clark County to find what internet and cell services is being used.
- Once this information is gathered a meeting will be scheduled with Eddie Drilling with AT&T. The meeting is to see if Clark County could be a pilot program for countywide broadband service.
- *Wesley Kluck, Jimmy Bolt and Phil Baldwin agreed to attend this meeting.
- Other service providers can be marketed for the opportunity to bid on Clark County's countywide broadband services with the possibility of multiple year contracts.

Goal 7:

- *Dr. Kluck to make contact with Ed Bee and research the beginning stages of the planning and development process for wood products businesses and forestry programs with an emphasis on biofuels.

Goal 9a:

- OBU has formed a Blue Ribbon Committee and has begun discussions with HSU to make this a joint committee.
- *Dr. Kluck-A report will be given at the February meeting on the joint efforts of the committee.